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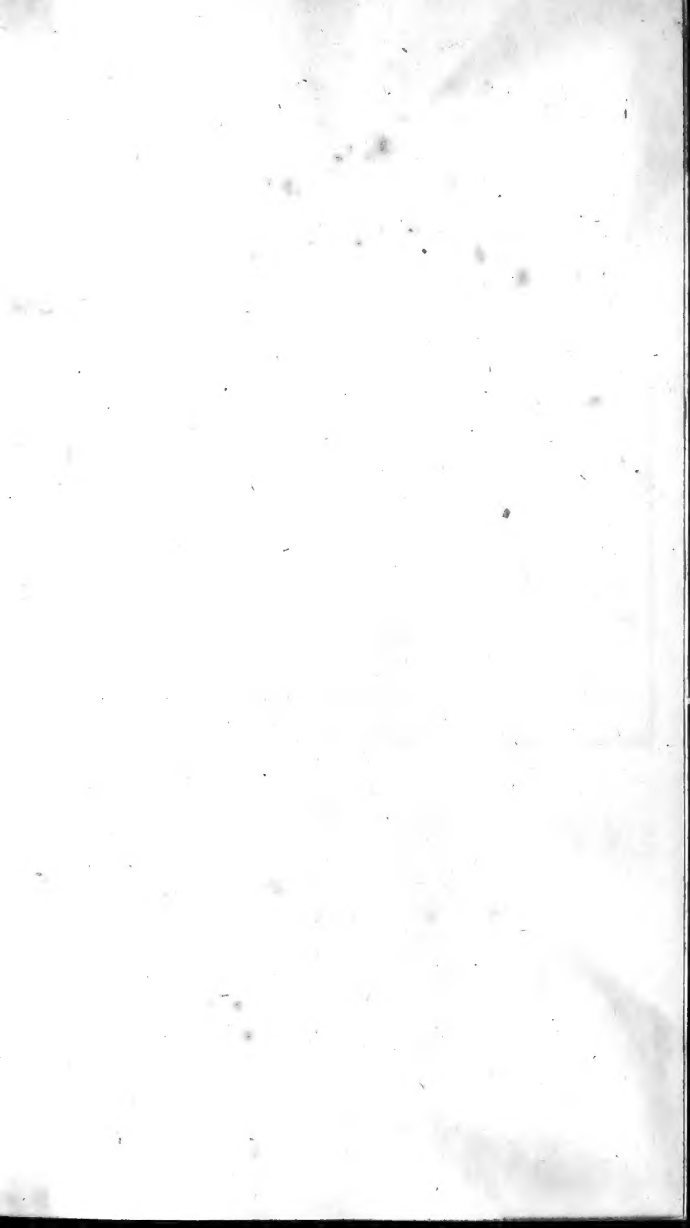
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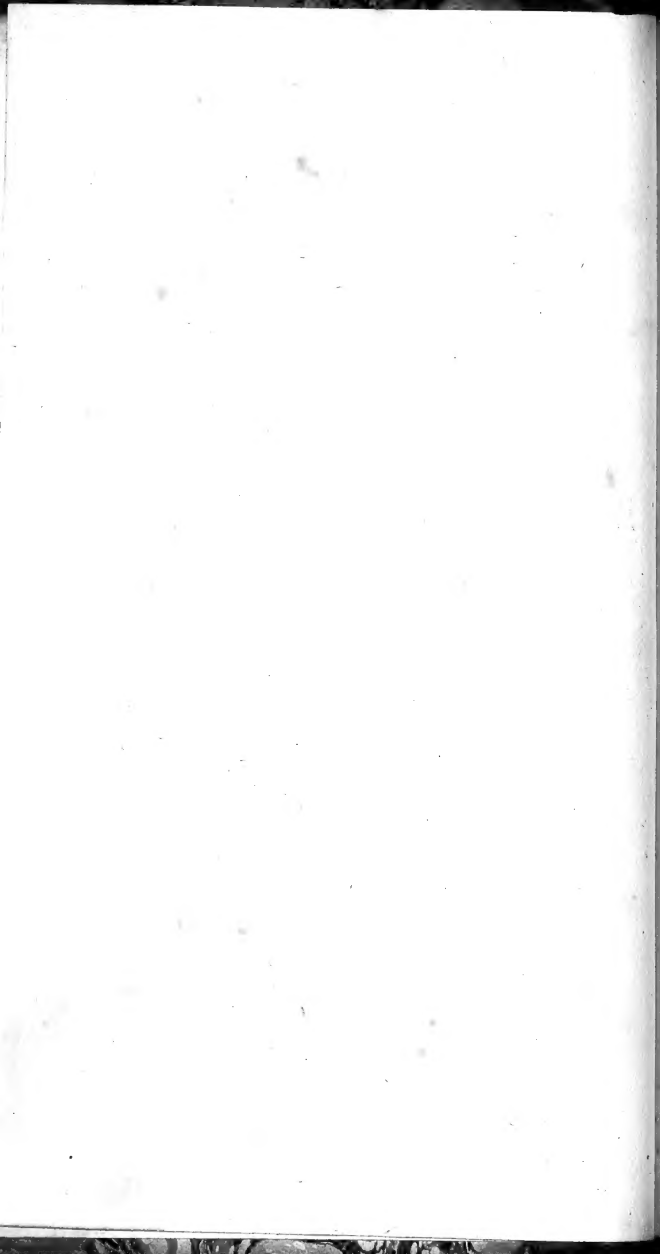
**ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES**  
OF  
**PHILADELPHIA.**

*Presented by* DR. T. B. WILSON.—18

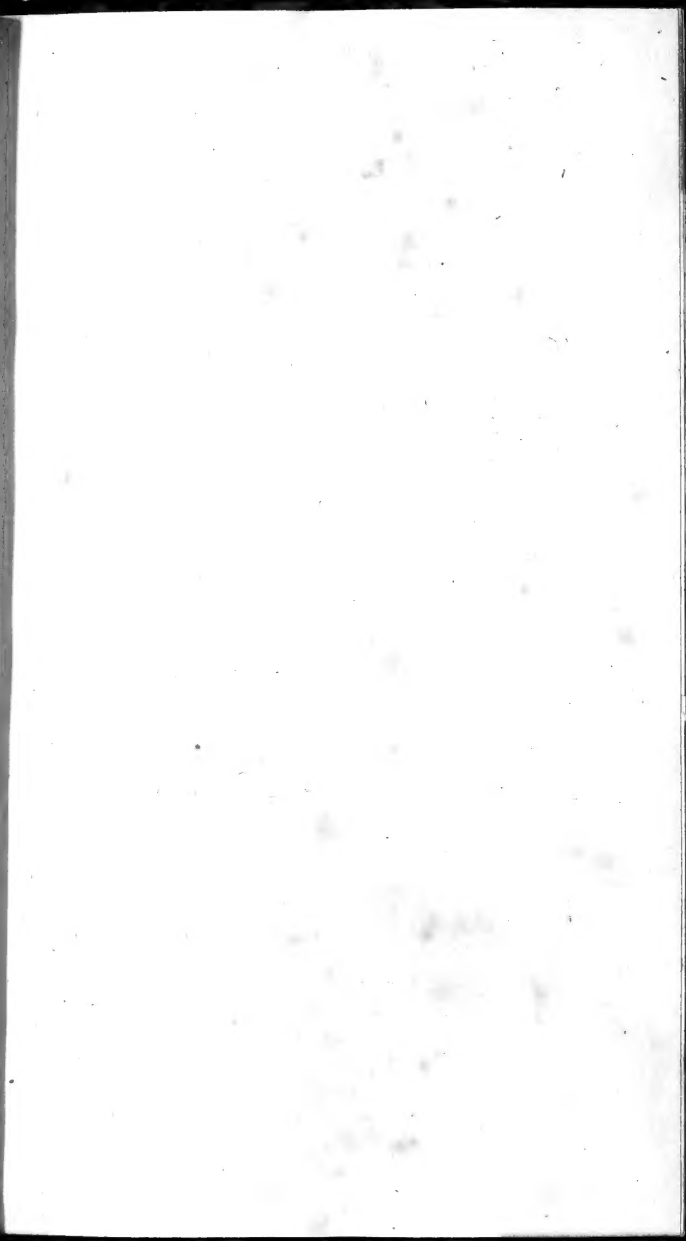
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**Not to be loaned on any condition.**













ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> Grallæ.  
Genus 40 *Phenicopterus*.



FLAMINGO.

Published June 1. 1787 by Jos. Johnson S. Pauls Church Yard London.

*J. Maxwell*

THE  
**Natural History**  
OF  
**BIRDS;**

CONTAINING

**A VARIETY OF FACTS,**

SELECTED FROM SEVERAL WRITERS,

ILLUSTRATED WITH

*Upwards of One Hundred Copper-plates.*

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IN THREE VOLUMES.

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**VOL. II.**

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LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, NO. 72. ST. PAUL'S  
CHURCH-YARD.

*1789.*

QL673

N28

V.2

STORY OF THE

WORLD

BY

JOHN R. HARRIS

IN THREE VOLUMES

VOLUME II

THE HISTORY OF THE

WORLD

IN THREE VOLUMES

VOLUME II

THE HISTORY OF THE

WORLD

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, NO. 7, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

1847.

THE  
NATURAL HISTORY  
OF  
BIRDS.

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ORDER IV. GRALLÆ.

Birds of this order have the beak a little cylindric, (that is, long and round,) rather blunt, and bare of feathers at the base.

The tongue is intire, and fleshy; pointed at the end, and beset with bristles.

The legs are without feathers above the knees.

GENUS 40. PHOENICOPTERUS.

THE FLAMINGO.

The bill is thick, large, bending in the middle, as though broken; the edges of the upper mandible are serrated (or toothed like a saw.)

The nostrils are very narrow.

The feet webbed, toes four, the webs are indented like a half moon, and the back toe is small.

**T**HE legs of the Flamingo are extremely long; its neck is of a great length, and slender. Its body being raised so high, and at the same time no larger than the body of a goose, appears strangely out of proportion.

## 4 THE NATURAL HISTORY

The webs between the toes are in the form of a half-moon, all the toes are short, but the back toe is remarkably small. The quill feathers in the wings are always black; the rest of the wings, the back, and breast, are of a beautiful red colour.

Flamingoes are found in warm climates, on the coast of Africa, the Cape de Verd Islands, and in Persia by the side of the Caspian Sea, in South America, and in many of the West-India Islands.

The Negroes are fond of the Flamingo, and respect it so much, that they never suffer it to be killed; so that it is quite familiar, and frequently found near their habitations. In general, the Flamingoes are all the day upon the coast, and in the evening they retire among the long grass, which abounds in that country.

They make their nests in marshy places, of heaps of mud and weed, about twenty inches high, like pyramids, or rather cones, with the summit broken off, (somewhat like the pots that are placed on chimnies,) and hollowed like a basin at the top; in this hollow the eggs are laid, without any preparation of feathers. The birds sit upon them, and their legs hang down on each side, like the legs of a man astride upon a cask. Their nests are always made in lakes or marshes, and they lay but two eggs, or three at most.

Their



Their food is small shell-fish, the spawn of fish, and such insects as are found in water. They plunge their heads into the water, the top of the upper mandible rests upon the ground, as if they were standing upon their heads; and they are continually moving the mud with their feet, to carry it with their food into their bills, and there the jagged edges of the mandibles serve to keep in the eggs of the gnats and flies, and suffer the mud and water to strain through.

The lakes of South America abound in these eggs as much as the lakes of Lapland, in which Mr. Maupertuis says, that he saw them in great quantities, and that they were very much like grains of millet.

Flamingoes are very fond of fish, and the rough edges of their bills enable them to hold this slippery prey.

They fish in flocks, and form themselves in a line; and being red, they look at a distance like soldiers.

They place sentinels to warn them of any danger, as almost all birds do, who fly and feed together. The sentinels are continually looking about; their heads are in constant motion, and the moment they see any thing that they suspect, they give the alarm, by making a loud noise, and fly

A 3

away,

away, and all the flock immediately follows in order.

Sometimes they are surprized by the fowler, and become stupid and motionless, through fear, which gives him time to kill them all, one after another.

Their flesh is very nice food, especially the tongue. Apicius, a glutton of Rome, recommended it as a delicacy. Apicius spent a very large fortune in eating and drinking, and poisoned himself at last lest he should die through want, though he had still very sufficient left.

The Phœnicopterus, or Flamingo, is covered with down like the Swan; and its skin, like the Swan's, is made into furs, which are very warm, and useful to old people. It is easily tamed; in three or four days young ones will come and eat out of the hand.

A French Gentleman at St. Domingo, an island in the West-Indies, observed a wild Flamingo near his house; he ordered a little Negro to drive towards it a tame one, of which he had the care. The Negro took with him the trough, out of which the tame Flamingo was fed, and placed it by the side of the marsh, and hid himself near it. The tame Flamingo soon came to it, the wild one followed,

followed, and the little Negro, who lay on the ground quite still, as though he was asleep, caught the wild Flamingo by the legs.

A Flamingo caught in some such way, lived fifteen years in a court-yard very quietly with other fowls. He was fond of the Turkeys and Ducks, and frequently stroaked their backs with his beak.

He lived upon the same grain as they did, provided it was mixed with water. In feeding he turned his beak on one side; he dabbled at other times like the Ducks, and knew so well those who were accustomed to feed him, that he would follow them, and pull them by their clothes. He frequently went into water up to the middle of his legs, and plunged his beak to the bottom to seek for fish, which were his favourite food. He was not fond of swimming, but frequently ran upon the water, and supported himself by moving his wings, which were half extended. If he fell, he rose with difficulty, so that he never rested on his stomach whilst he slept, but drew up one leg, and supported himself upon the other: He placed his head on his back behind his wing, and always on the side opposite to the leg on which he stood.

Flamingoes eat more in the night than in the day. They dip the bread which is given them

## 8 THE NATURAL HISTORY

in water, and are so affected with cold, that they will come near enough to the fire to burn their feet.

If one leg be lame they walk upon the other with the help of the beak, which they use like a crutch, for they can lean with it upon the ground.

Savages use the beautiful feathers of the Flamingo for ornaments; and formerly it was skinned by the Europeans, and these skins, with the feathers upon them, were made into muffs.

Sometimes Flamingoes will lay their eggs upon a low rock, if it project or jut out, and be in such a form, as to allow them to sit astride upon it, with their legs hanging down, one on each side.



ORDER 1<sup>th</sup> Grallæ.  
Genus 4<sup>th</sup> Platalea.



SPOON-BILL.

## GENUS 41. PLATALEA.

## THE SPOONBILL.

The bill is long, broad, flat, and thin; the end widening into a roundish form, a little like a spoon.

The nostrils are small, and placed near the base of the bill.

The tongue is small and pointed.

The feet have four toes, and are semi palmated; that is, the webs come half way to the ends of the toes.

**T**HE beak of the Spoonbill is very remarkable in its form; it is flat the whole length, but widens towards the end like a spoon, and there it is three times wider than in the other part. It is remarkable too for its substance, for it is not hard, but flexible, and bends easily like whalebone.

The plumage or feathers of the Spoonbill are white, in some the quills are tipped with black.

The Spoonbill is near the size of the Heron; but its legs are not so long, and its neck is shorter. The feathers on the neck are short, those on the head are long, and form a crest, which falls backwards. The feet, and the naked part of the legs, are covered with a black, hard, and scaly skin.

Spoonbills feed on serpents, frogs, worms, water insects, and fish, and even fish that have shells; to bruise and break them there are in the inside of both mandibles little rough knobs.

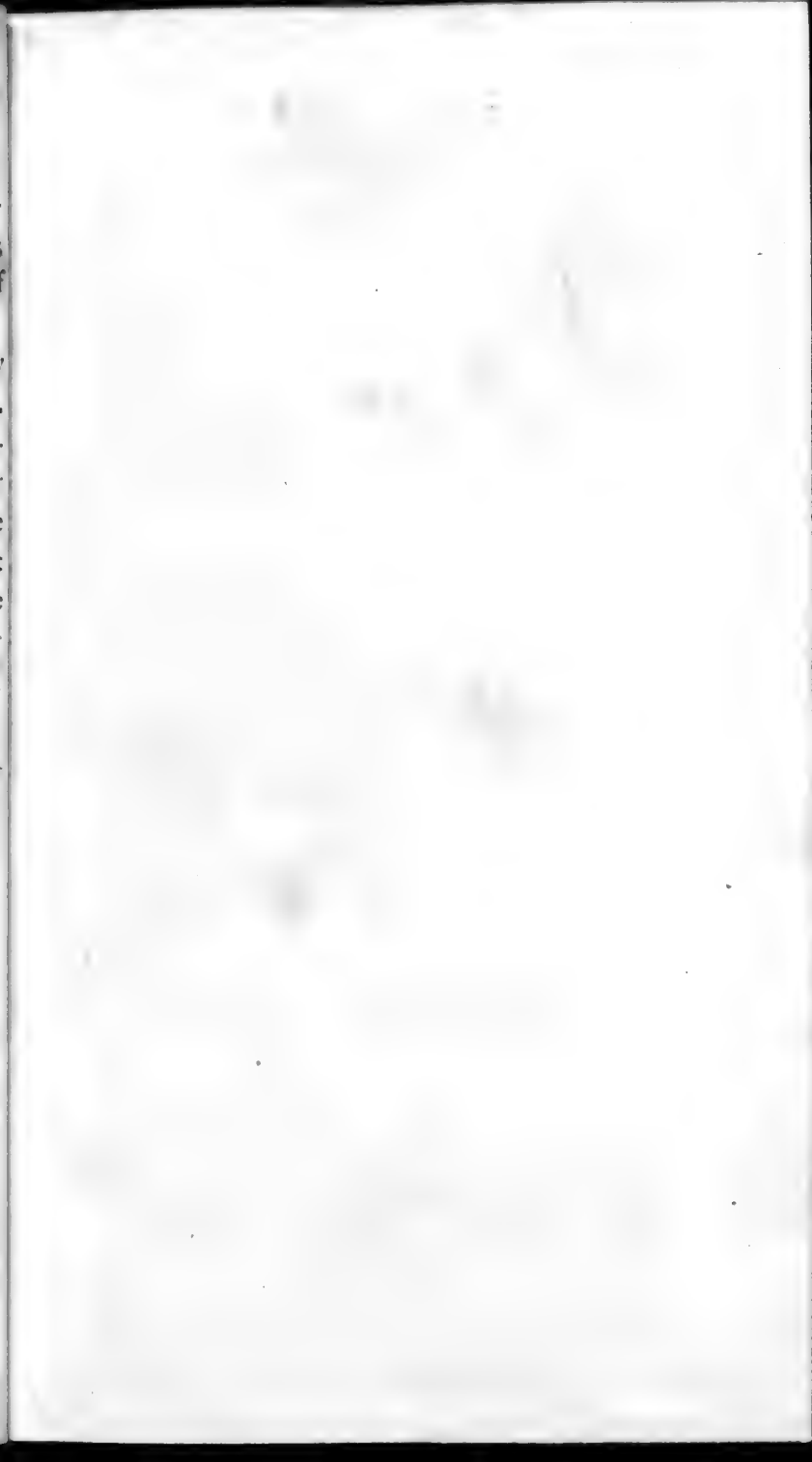
Spoonbills inhabit the borders of the sea. They are found on the coasts of France and Holland. There are great numbers in the marshes of Sevenhuis, near Leyden, in Holland, and in summer they are found from the Ferroe Islands to the Cape of Good Hope. There they destroy a great number of frogs and toads and serpents, and are as much esteemed as the Ibis is in Egypt; and for the same reason, the Spoonbills are suffered to run tamely about their houses, and are never killed.

They build their nests on the tops of high trees near the sea side; the nests are made of little sticks; they lay three eggs, and are very noisy when breeding. They return regularly every evening, and perch upon the trees and roost there.

The gullet of the Spoonbill becomes larger towards the bottom; it is there, perhaps, that the shell-fish remain, until their flesh be separated and digested by the warmth; then it throws out the broken shells.

Sometimes Spoonbills will pursue other birds, and take from them the fish which they have caught; like the Bald Eagles, the Man of War





ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> *Grallæ.*  
*Genus 42 Palamedea.*



SCREAMER.

Birds, and the Skua Gulls. Sometimes they feed on grafs, and on water weeds, and the roots of reeds.

One kind of Spoonbill is of a rose colour; and there is another found in Surinam, dusky upon the back, and white upon the stomach, and about the size of a Sparrow.

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GENUS 42. PALAMEDEA.

THE SCREAMER.

The bill is conic, and the upper mandible crooked.

The nostrils are oval.

It has four toes, divided almost to their beginning, with a small membrane between the bottoms of each.

**T**HE Horned Screamer is about the size of a Turkey. A horn springs from the crown of his head about three inches long, and pointed at the end: each wing is armed with two strong spurs, short, horny, and yellow—Yet the Screamers never attack birds, for they are of a very gentle nature. They go in pairs, and are so fond

of each other, that if one dies, the other mourns and pines to death near the place where it lost its partner. Their legs are rather short, but their wings and tails are long. They make their nests of mud, at the foot of a tree, in the form of an oven. Some say, indeed, that they make their nests among thickets, at a little distance from the ground; and others, that they build on high trees. They lay two eggs.

In the vast continent of America the rivers are the largest in the world; in the rainy seasons they overflow their banks; the water and mud which they leave behind form prodigious marshes. These marshes are inhabited by snakes of an enormous size, by alligators, (which are the crocodiles of America,) by toads, lizards, and a thousand other creeping things; millions of gnats and insects swarm in the air, and draw together great flocks of birds of prey.

In these vast and gloomy deserts nothing is heard but their cries, and the croaking of the reptiles.

Among these noises, the cry of the Screamer is heard; it is loud and terrible. Yet, notwithstanding its cry, and the spurs which its wings are furnished with, the bird is very harmless, and  
seeds

feeds principally on water plants and reptiles, (that is creeping things.)

The Crested Screamer has no spurs, but it has a tuft of black feathers just above the base of its bill. It inhabits Brasil, and other parts of South America; frequents marshes, and feeds upon fish. The toe behind is placed so high up, as not to touch the ground when it walks.

In Quito, in South America, they are called Awakeners; for if they hear the least noise, or see any body, they immediately rise from the ground, and make a loud chattering like a magpie, and hover above the object that alarmed them. This noise rouses the other birds, and gives them an opportunity to escape.

## GENUS 43. MYCTERIA.

## THE JABIRU.

The bill bends upwards; the upper mandible is triangular, or three-sided.

The forehead is bare of feathers.

The nostrils small.

No tongue.

Four toes, divided.

**T**HE Jabiru is larger than the Stork, and higher than the Crane; the head, and part of the neck, is covered with a black and naked skin.

In Oronoque there are multitudes of reptiles, such as snakes, toads, and lizards; and there are too a number of birds of prey, which destroy these reptiles, and prevent their increasing too fast.

The Jabiru is one of the largest of these kinds of birds.

It is found in all the Savannas of Cayenne, Guiana, and other parts of South America. It builds in trees, lays two eggs, and brings up the young in the nest, until they can fly down to the ground.

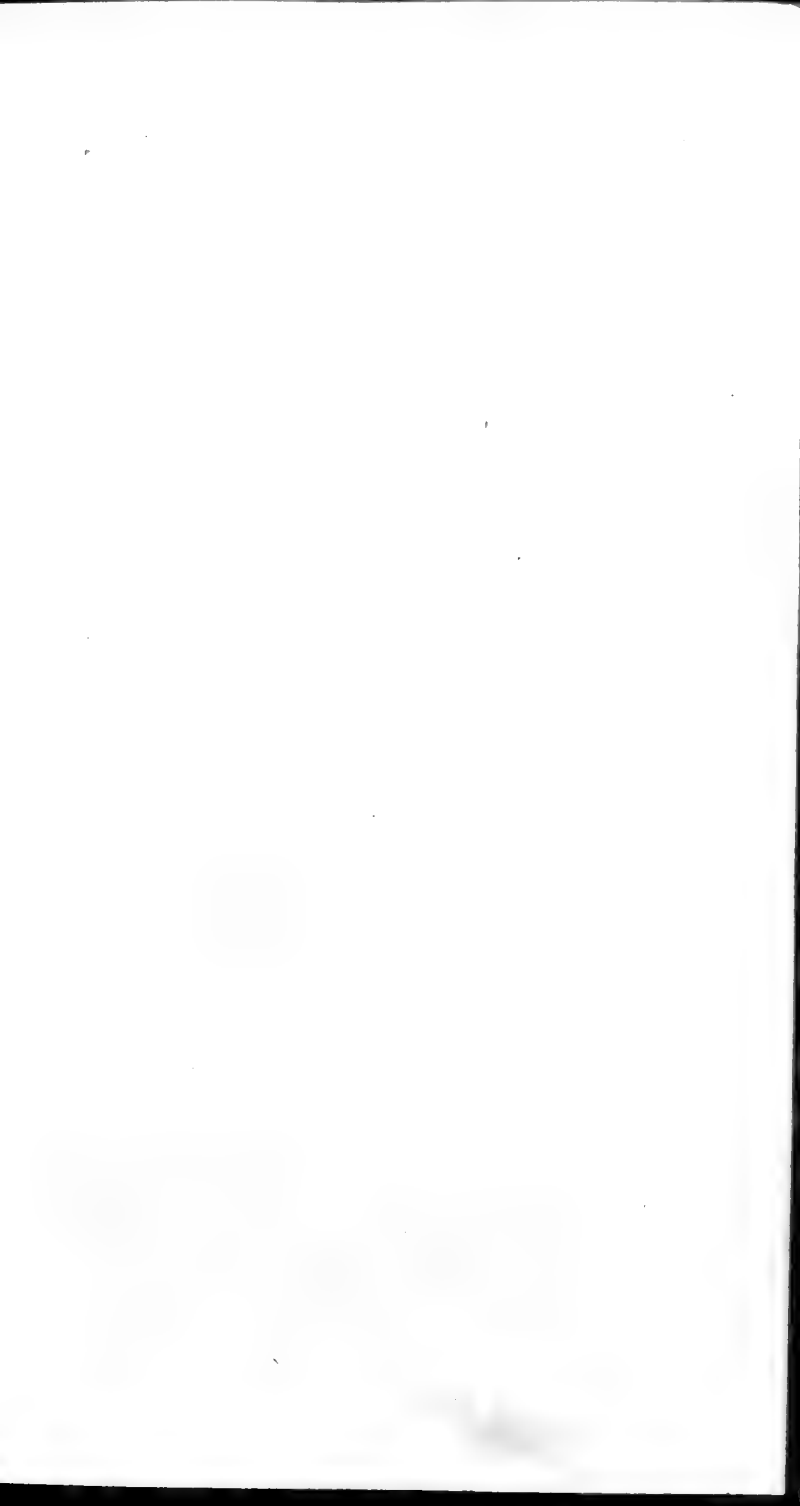
ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> Grallæ.  
Genus 43. *Mycteria*.



JABIRU.

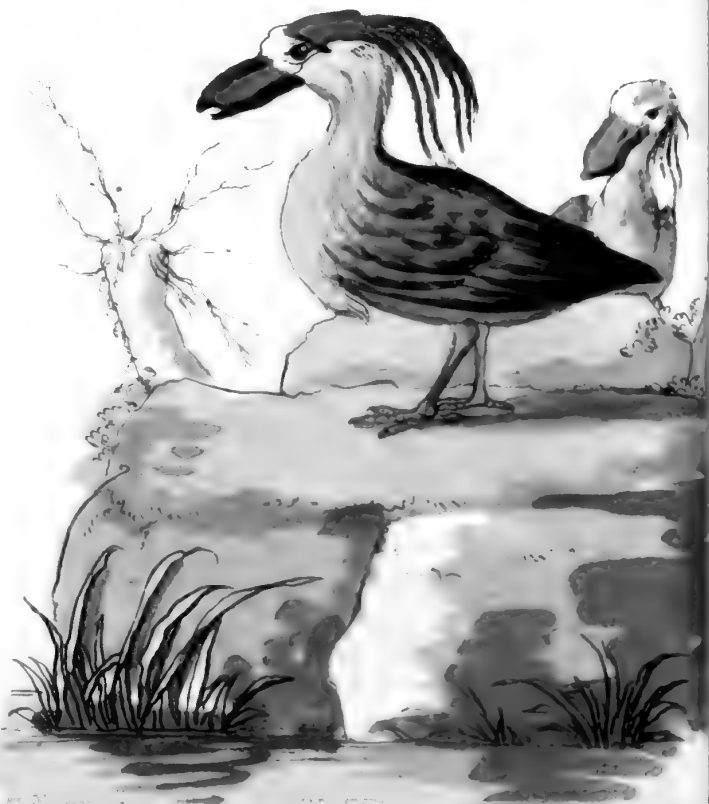






-ORDER 1<sup>th</sup> Gralla.

Genus 11 *Canceroma*.



BOAT-BILL.

## GENUS 44. C A N C R O M A.

## THE BOAT-BILL.

The bill is broad, with a keel along the middle, like a boat turned upside down.

The nostrils are small, and placed in a furrow.

The tongue is small.

The toes are divided.

**T**HOUGH the bill of this bird be very strong, and would give it the power of hurting other birds, it is of a gentle nature. It lives far from the sea, in Savannas that are overflown, and on the banks of rivers.

It perches upon trees near the water, and watches for fish. It darts down upon them, and rises again without staying upon the water. It walks with the neck arched, and the back bowed. Its eyes are placed near the base of the beak, which makes it appear very savage. From the back of its head is a long crest of feathers, which hang down; the feathers of the crest are narrow, and end in a point, those in the middle are the longest, they are six inches in length.

The bill is four inches long, and like the bowls of two spoons placed with the hollow parts together.

GENUS

## GENUS 45. A R D E A.

The bill is long, strait, sharp pointed, a little compressed, with a furrow from the nostrils towards the point.

The nostrils are linear, or narrow.

The tongue is pointed.

The toes are connected by a membrane as far as the first joint; the middle claw in some is pectinated, or jagged; and the toes are four in number.

FIRST DIVISION,  
CRESTED HERONS.

**T**HE top of the head of the Crowned Heron is covered with soft black feathers, like velvet; on the hind part is a tuft of bristles four inches long, spreading out in a globular form. The sides of the head are bare of feathers; on the cheeks the skin is of a lively scarlet.

These Herons are found in Africa, especially on the Gold Coast.

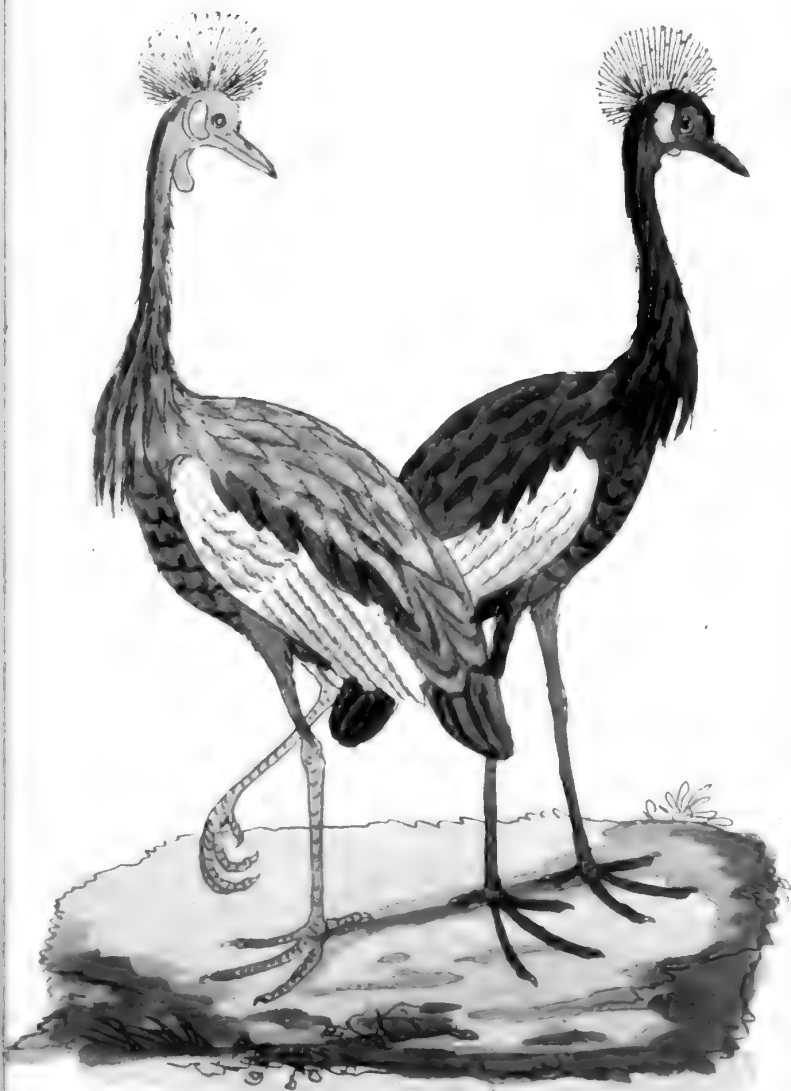
They are frequently seen on the banks of rivers; take little fish, and eat grass and grain.

They run very fast, spreading their wings; at other times they walk slowly, and very uprightly.

These Crested Herons are very gentle, and seem fond of man. In the Cape de Verd Islands they are half tamed, and they come to feed in the court-

ORDER 1<sup>th</sup> Crallæ.

Genus 15. Ardea.



**CROWNED HERONS or BALEARIC CRANES.**

*Published June 1. 1787 by Jos. Johnson in St. Pauls Church Yard London.*



court-yards with Guinea fowl and other poultry. They perch on trees in the open air to roost.

Mr. Buffon had one which was sent from Guinea; he kept it some time in a garden; it fed upon plants, especially the hearts of lettuces and endive, but rice, steeped in water, is perhaps its proper food; it picked up insects and earth-worms, and was fond of bathing itself. It made a loud noise like a trumpet, and when it was left long alone seemed very uneasy. It would follow those who came to look at it, and if any thing amused it, so as to occasion its staying a little while behind, it would make haste to overtake its company.

When it is quite composed, it stands upon one leg, with its neck bent in a serpentine form, but when it is roused, then it lengthens its neck, raises its head, and walks forward gravely, measuring as it were its steps; then it is that it appears in all its dignity.

It is found only in warm climates, and that which Mr. Buffon mentions, always roosted in the evening in a room, in which there was a fire; and if the door was shut, it would make a noise like a trumpet, that the door might be opened.

Busbequius, when he was in Turkey, had one of these birds which took a fancy to a soldier, and followed

followed him wherever he went. She would strike at his door with her beak, and when she saw him shewed many signs of joy; but if she could not find him, she made a very complaining noise. She slept at night under his bed, and laid an egg there. At last the soldier was sent away, and she pined and died of grief. This bird is sometimes called the Balearic Crane. It sleeps on one leg, runs very fast, and can fly very well, and for a long time.

## ARDEA VIRGO.

## THE DEMOISELLE

Has a tuft of long white feathers behind each eye, which hang downwards in an elegant manner. On the top of its head are long, soft, silky feathers, of a beautiful black. It has the same kind of feathers on the fore-part of its neck. From the elegance of its appearance, and its singular carriage, it is called the Demoiselle, which means the Young Lady. For this bird walks very gracefully, and sometimes skips and leaps as though it were trying to dance.

Xenophon says, that those who went to take the Demoiselles, pretended to wash their eyes, in sight of the birds, with water out of some vessels:

after



ORDER 4  
*Genus 45. Ardea.*



DENNOISELLE.  
*Or. American Crane.*



after this they put into the vessels some glue, and went away. Then the Demoiselles would come, and attempt to wash their eyes in the same manner, and by the glue clinging to their eyes and feet, they were easily caught; but this perhaps may not be true.

Demoiselles are very fond of shewing themselves, and they make these uncommon gestures the moment they are looked at. Aristotle says, that they dance opposite one another, and that then they are so busily engaged that they are easily taken.

They are found in many parts of Africa and of Asia; and frequent marshes, because they are fond of fish.

Keyser mentions one that had been taught to dance to a tune.

## SECOND DIVISION.

### HERONS WITH BALD HEADS.

Of all the birds that migrate, or fly from one country to another, there are none that undertake more distant or more difficult flights than Cranes.

They are seen in Sweden, the Orkney Islands, Scotland, in Poland, and all the northern parts of Europe.

Formerly

Formerly it was thought, that a race of little men, who were called Pygmies, were at constant war with the Cranes, that they attempted to take their eggs, and steal their young; and it is not improbable, that these attempts are frequently made by apes and monkeys, for they are very fond of birds and eggs; and apes and monkeys are so much like little men, that the mistake is not much to be wondered at.

Cranes fly very high, and in order. They form a triangle. When the wind is strong against them, or an Eagle is about to attack them, they make a kind of circle. They fly mostly in the night; the leader frequently calls out to them, and all the others answer, so that they are in no danger of separating.

Cranes, like all large birds, cannot easily begin to fly: they first run, then flap their wings, then just rise, afterwards they spread their wings, and support a long and steady flight. They often rise so high among the clouds that they cannot be seen, yet they make so loud a noise, that they can be heard though out of sight; and their eyes are so good, that they can see every object below.

When Cranes are in numbers upon the ground, they sleep with their heads under their wings, except their chief, and he watches with  
his

his neck stretched out ; if any thing alarm him, he informs the rest with a cry.

The Crane lays but two eggs, and the young, soon after they can fly, accompany their parents in their migration, or passage, from one country to another.

Cranes are taken by snares, and sometimes by Falcons. In some parts of Poland they are in such numbers, that the peasants are obliged to build huts in the middle of their fields of corn to drive them away, for they are very great destroyers of grain. It is in the dark chiefly that they plunder, and sometimes in one night they will lay waste a whole field of corn ; they devour it, and trample it down, as though a regiment of soldiers had marched over it.

When Cranes are pursued by Falcons, they endeavour to rise very high in the air, and sometimes they strike their bills through the Falcons and kill them ; but as they are not skilful in turning, the Falcon will frequently wound the wings of the Cranes, and they fall down to the ground ; but even then they will lie upon their backs, and fight desperately with their beaks and their claws, until the fowler comes and kills them.

It was once the barbarous custom to breed up Cranes to be hunted in this manner, and young ones were taken from the nest and trained for this cruel diversion.

Cranes may be tamed and taught to march or walk very gravely, to put themselves into many strange postures, and to dance to music.

Though they live very much upon grain, yet they prefer worms and insects; for this reason they frequent marshy situations.

The feathers of the Crane are in general of an ash colour, the quill feathers of the wings are black.

From the pinion of each wing there grows an elegant tuft of loose feathers, like hairs, curled at the end. The Crane can raise them when it pleases, but in general these feathers fall in a very graceful manner over the tail. They were formerly set in gold, and worn as ornaments in caps.

The forehead is covered with black down or hairs. The hind part of the head is red and bare, or has only a few scattered hairs.

The Crane roosts upon one leg.

Plutarch says, that they were blinded and kept in coops to be fattened for the great men in Rome.

. Young

Young Cranes, before they are fledged, run with such swiftness, that a man cannot easily overtake them.

In some countries it was thought very wrong to kill them, because, by their appearing and disappearing, they were supposed to foretel the season, and the husbandman was very much guided by them.

If they came early, a plentiful summer was expected, but if late, an unfavourable season.

We should be very careful not to laugh at or find fault with opinions of this kind, among the lower class of people, which make them tender in their treatment of any animal; for they are too often very thoughtless in these respects.

The Siberian Crane is another of this species; it is very large, and inhabits the marshes near the rivers Oby and Irtis. These Cranes make their nests of plants upon tufts of grass, and lay two eggs.

They are very shy, and have a sentinel to warn them of any danger. It is very difficult for the fowler to come within gun-shot, for as they are near five feet high, they can see him at a great distance.

Some-

Sometimes the fowler takes a horse, and walks on one side of the horse, so that the Crane does not see the man, and in this manner the fowler gets near enough to shoot him; and sometimes too he takes a dog, which fixes the attention of the Crane, (for the Crane is not at all afraid of the dog) and the fowler, without being observed, gets within gun-shot.

The Hooping Crane is found in America: in the summer as far north as Hudson's Bay, in the winter it removes to Georgia. It makes its nest on the ground, of grass and feathers, lays two white eggs, and sits twenty days. The young at first are yellow, they become white by degrees.

There is a very large Crane found in the East-Indies, and in Africa; the wings, when extended, are near fifteen feet, from the point of one to the point of the other; and from the point of the bill to its claws, it measures seven feet and an half. On opening one of them, a land tortoise was found in its crop.

Mr. Smeathman saw one of these gigantic Cranes in Africa, that was tame: at dinner time it always placed itself behind its master's chair. The servants were obliged to watch it very carefully, and sometimes strike it with a switch, to prevent it from stealing the meat; one day the Crane

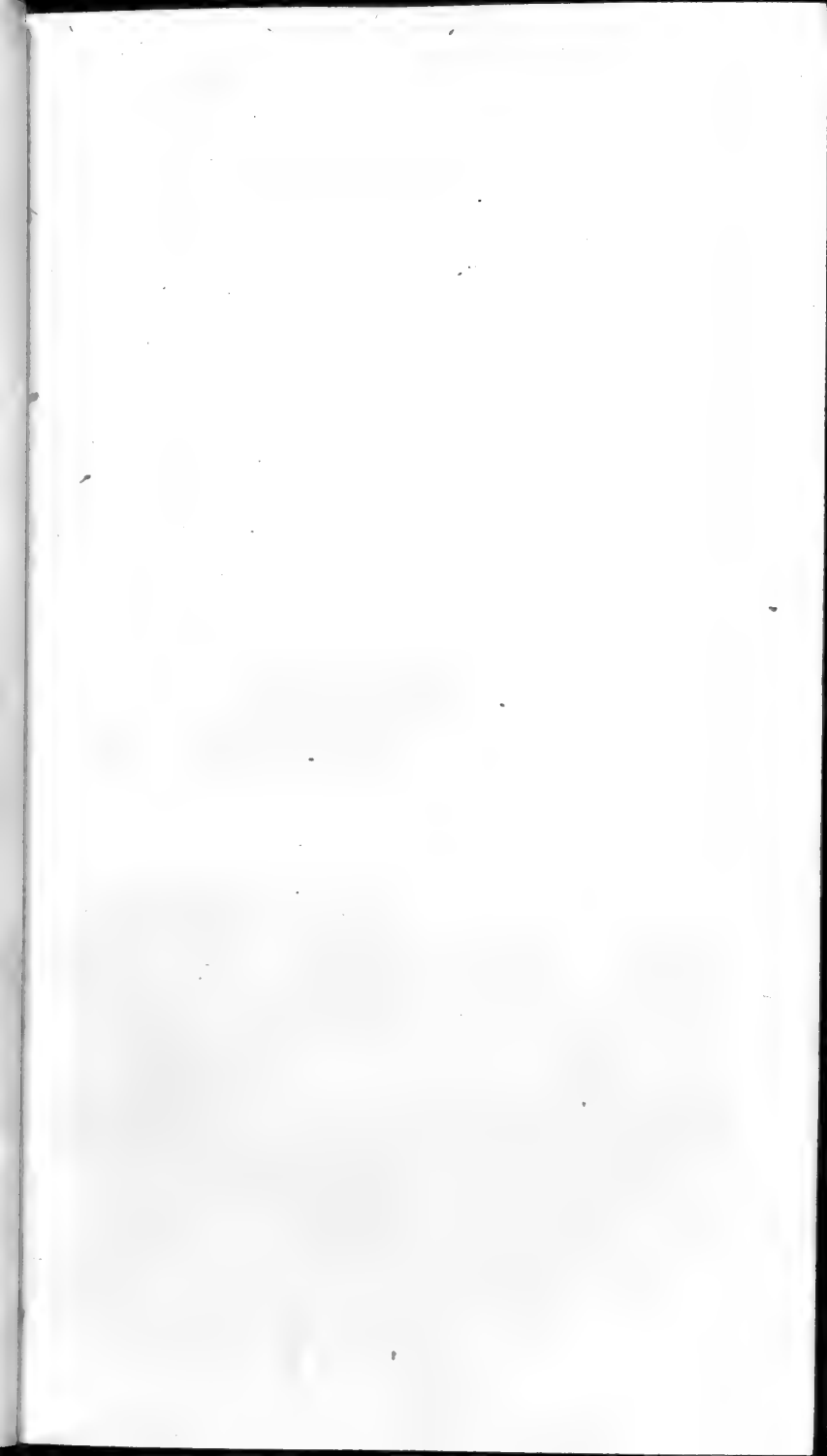


ORDER 4.<sup>th</sup> *Grallæ*.  
Genus 45 *Ardea*.



HOOPING CRANE.





ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> Grallæ.  
Genus 15. Ardea.



STORK.

Crane took away a whole boiled fowl, and swallowed a cat whole.

This Crane flew about where it liked, and perched upon the silk cotton trees; from those trees it could see the house, at the distance of two or three miles; and when the dinner was carrying in, it flew down, and entered the room with the servants who were taking in the dishes.

The head of these gigantic Cranes is covered thinly with white down, so that it looks, at a distance, like a grey-headed old man; and on the middle of the neck before, there is a long membrane like a bladder, which seems to be inflated or blown up, it is thinly covered with short down, and rises and falls as the bird moves its beak.

When they are seen at a distance, at the mouths of large rivers, running with their wings extended, they have been mistaken for canoes; and when they have been seen on sand-banks, they look a little like men and women picking up shells.

Storks have a naked circle round their eyes.

There are two species of Storks; one is black, and the other white.

The black Stork seeks lonely places, perches in woods, frequents marshes, and builds its nest in thick forests.

The white Stork seeks inhabited places, and builds in towers, in chimneys, and on the tops of houses.

Its body is white, its wings black, the legs and beak are red, its neck is bowed.

It flies very strongly, and for a long time, and like all birds with long wings and a short tail stretches out its legs behind whilst it flies, and these serve as a kind of rudder.

Storks are said to live all the year in Japan.

They come into Germany about the beginning of May, and their arrival, like that of the Swallow, seems to point out the spring.

They always return to the place where they built their nest the year before: if the nest have been destroyed, they make another, with sticks and bog plants.

They sometimes build in very high trees, by the water side, and sometimes upon the crag of a rock.

In Holland the people provide boxes for them to build in, and never suffer them to be destroyed for they are very useful in devouring frogs, and toads, and snakes, and other reptiles or creeping things.

The Stork walks slowly, with measured steps like the Crane, and often makes a strange snapping noise with his bill.

At Persepolis, in Persia, Storks are in great numbers; they build among the ruins, and on every pillar almost there is a nest. They lay from two to four eggs: the male sits whilst the female goes to feed itself. They sit a month; either the male or female is constantly watching near the nest. The legs of the young are very long, and at first too weak to support them, so that they draw themselves about in the nest upon their knees. The old birds take great pains to teach them to fly; at first they fly in little circles round the nest, and by the latter end of August, when they leave Holland and France with their parents, to go into warmer climates, they can fly very well.

When they are met together, in order, like other birds of passage, to fly into distant countries, they make this snapping noise with their bills, and they wait for a wind from the north, which assists them in their flight to a warmer climate. They rise all at once in the air, and disappear in a moment. They pass the winter in Africa.

Dr. Shaw, whilst he was in a ship at anchor near Mount Carmel, in Turkey, in Asia, saw three

flights of these birds ; each flock was half a mile in breadth, and three hours in passing by.

These birds, which fly from one climate to another, never have any winter : the whole year to them is two summers, and it is said, that the Storks breed a second time in Egypt.

The Stork is a gentle bird, easily tamed, and taught to live in gardens, where it destroys insects and creeping things. It may be made very familiar. A Gentleman of Straßbourg, which is in Germany, says, that he saw a Stork playing with some children in a garden at hide and seek. He ran in his turn when he was touched, and knew very well the child whose turn it was to run, and endeavoured to get out of his way.

The Storks are very fond of their young ; when they first attempt to flutter about their nests, they support them on their wings, and defend them from danger.

It is said, too, that they shew a regard for the people and for the houses where they have made their nests ; that when they come again, they make a snapping noise with their bills as they pass by the door, as it were to inform the people of their return ; and that they take the same kind of farewell when they are going away.





ORDER 4.<sup>th</sup> Grallæ.  
Genus 45 . Ardea .



HERON.

But the affection which they shew their parents is very remarkable.—When they are weak and helpless, through age or accident, they bring them food, and return those cares and attentions which their parents shewed them when they were young.

The Greeks formerly lived in Turkey in Europe; they were the wisest people then in the world; they made a law, obliging children to take care of their parents, when they became old or helpless; and this law was named after the Stork, in honour of that very good example which the Storks set to men.

In many countries it was considered as a very great crime to kill a Stork, because they are so useful to mankind in destroying reptiles and insects: for in damp places these insects would increase so fast as to be very troublesome.

After the waters of the Nile return within their banks, the Storks appear in such numbers as almost to cover the country. They come to feed upon those insects and reptiles, which are produced in vast quantities in the mud; and when the Nile overflows, then they pass from Egypt to Europe.

Hérons have the middle claw toothed like a saw on the inner side. This is a contrivance to enable them to hold fast the fish, upon which they live, for fish are very slippery.

Hérons seem very melancholy. They are in general very lean, and very shy. They stand for hours, and sometimes for days together, in the same place, nearly motionless. They seem as though asleep, standing upon one leg, and the head and neck are drawn back between their shoulders.

They walk into the water above their knees; their head is placed between their legs to watch the frogs or the fish, but they are obliged to wait until their prey comes to them; and as they have but one instant to seize it in, they often fast a long while, and this is the reason that they are generally so lean.

In the severe cold of winter, whilst other birds seek the best shelter, the poor melancholy Heron stands alone, and quite exposed to all the keenness of the winds. A Gentleman once took one that was half frozen and covered with fleec.

In the day they are generally still, but in the night they take their flights, and then it is that we hear their harsh cry, at all hours, and in every season.

When they fly, the head is drawn in between the shoulders, and the legs hang down.

Formerly Eagles and Falcons were employed to attack them. The Heron then rises as high

as he can, that he may continue uppermost, and out of the reach of the Falcon.

They frequently both of them soar or rise among the clouds, beyond our sight. Sometimes the Falcon strikes the Heron, and he falls wounded to the ground, and sometimes the Heron pierces the Falcon through with his bill.

Heron's have been collected together in numbers, and have built their nests in high trees by the water side. This collection of them is called a Heronry. Their nests are large, composed of sticks, dry grass, and rushes, and lined with feathers or wool.

They lay four or five eggs.

Whilst the female sits, the male provides her with food: fish are frequently seen under the tree, that have fallen from the nest; and the male passes much of his time perched on the tree near the nest.

Though the Heron be very sullen, and when taken old he refuses food, yet if caught young he is easily tamed, and gets fat; and may be taught to move about his neck, and shew some signs of fondness to those who take notice of him.

The Heron takes many frogs, and swallows them whole. In the winter, when he can only

go to the warm springs that remain unfrozen, he feels about in the mud with his foot for his prey.

By means of his long legs he can go a foot deep into water, without wetting himself; his toes are very long, and his beak is armed with little teeth, turning backwards.

Hérons are very long lived, it is probable that they live more than sixty years.

There are many species of the Heron. The Crested Purple Heron is one. It is found near the Caspian and the Black Seas, in the lakes of Great Tartary, and on the river Irtis, in Siberia.

The common Heron is found in almost every country.

The Great and Little Egrets are both found in South America.

The Little Egret is found too in Africa and Asia.

Egrets have long silky feathers on their backs; Ladies often wear them in their head-dresses, Warriors often wear them in their helmets, and the Sultan, or the Emperor of the Turks, wears them sometimes in his turban or cap.

These feathers are soft and silky; a tuft of them grows from each shoulder, they spread over the back, and beyond the tail.

There



ORDER 4  
Genus 45 *Ardea*.



BITTERN.



There are Egrets in Falkland Islands, which towards night make a barking noise like the wolves.

The Egret is a small species of the Heron; it frequents the sea shore, and the larger stagnant waters.

In Siam they perch upon the trees in such numbers, that they appear at a distance like blossoms. The beautiful white of their feathers, and the green leaves, look very prettily.

The Yellow-crowned Herons inhabit Carolina, in North America, in rainy seasons. They are in greater numbers in the Bahama Islands. They breed in the bushes which grow out of the cliffs of the rocks, and are in such quantities, that two men in a few hours could load a canoe with their young. They are so indolent, and so little afraid, that they suffer themselves quietly to be taken. They live upon fish, chiefly upon crabs.

The Bittern is wilder, and not so stupid as many other species of the Heron. He is seldom seen; he lives only in those marshes where he can shelter himself among the rushes. He prefers large pools surrounded by woods. He leads a lonely and quiet life amongst the reeds, sheltered by them from wind and rain, concealed too from the fowler, and from the fish which he preys upon.

He seldom flies, but when he entirely leaves the marsh for some other situation.

The Bittern makes a very loud and disagreeable noise, like the bellowing of a bull, but hollower and louder, and it is heard at the distance of a mile.

He destroys a great number of frogs, and goes into the woods to kill rats, which he swallows whole.

Bitterns make their nests upon tufts of rushes (among the reeds) of the leaves of water plants, in the month of April. They lay five or six eggs and hatch in twenty-four or twenty-five days. The old ones feed their young with leeches, lizards, and the spawn of frogs; and when they are a little grown, they bring to them young eels. One of the old Bitterns continually watches the nest.

No bird defends itself better than the Bittern: he even uses his beak and his claws against the fowler who has shot him.

He is often hunted by Falcons, trained for that purpose: when he is terrified, he rises very high among the clouds, flying upwards in a spiral or winding direction. On this account he was called by the Latins, *Stellaris*, or the Star-reaching Bird.

The Bittern is esteemed very good food; it is plump and fleshy, and feeds upon vegetables when it cannot procure animal food.

The feathers on the breast of the Bittern are very long, and hang loose; its hind claw is of a remarkable length, and is sometimes set in silver, and used as a tooth-pick.

This bird, as well as the Heron, when only maimed, is very apt to strike at the fowler's eyes.

There is a Bittern found near the rivers of Cayenne, called the Lineated Bittern; one of them was kept tame, and was of great use in killing rats.

In North America, and in some of the islands in the West-Indies, there is a green Heron, which feeds on frogs, crabs, and small fish; it sits a long time together, with its head drawn in between its shoulders, on a branch of a tree which hangs over the water, and watches for fish, and very likely it may dart upon them like the King-fisher.

## GENUS 46. TANTALUS.

## THE IBIS.

The bill is long, slender, except at the base, where it is thick, and a little bowed or bending.

The face is naked beyond the eyes.

The tongue is short and wide.

The crop is naked.

The nostrils are oval.

The toes four, connected or joined at the base by a membrane.

**E**GYPT is a flat and moist country, and frequently overflown by the river Nile. In the mud which is left behind, multitudes of frogs, and toads, and numerous reptiles, such as serpents, are bred. The Ibis seems to be as fond of destroying them, as of making them his prey; for after he has satisfied his hunger, he still continues to destroy them. Day and night he walks backwards and forwards watching these reptiles, searching for their eggs, and killing, as he passes along, beetles and grasshoppers.

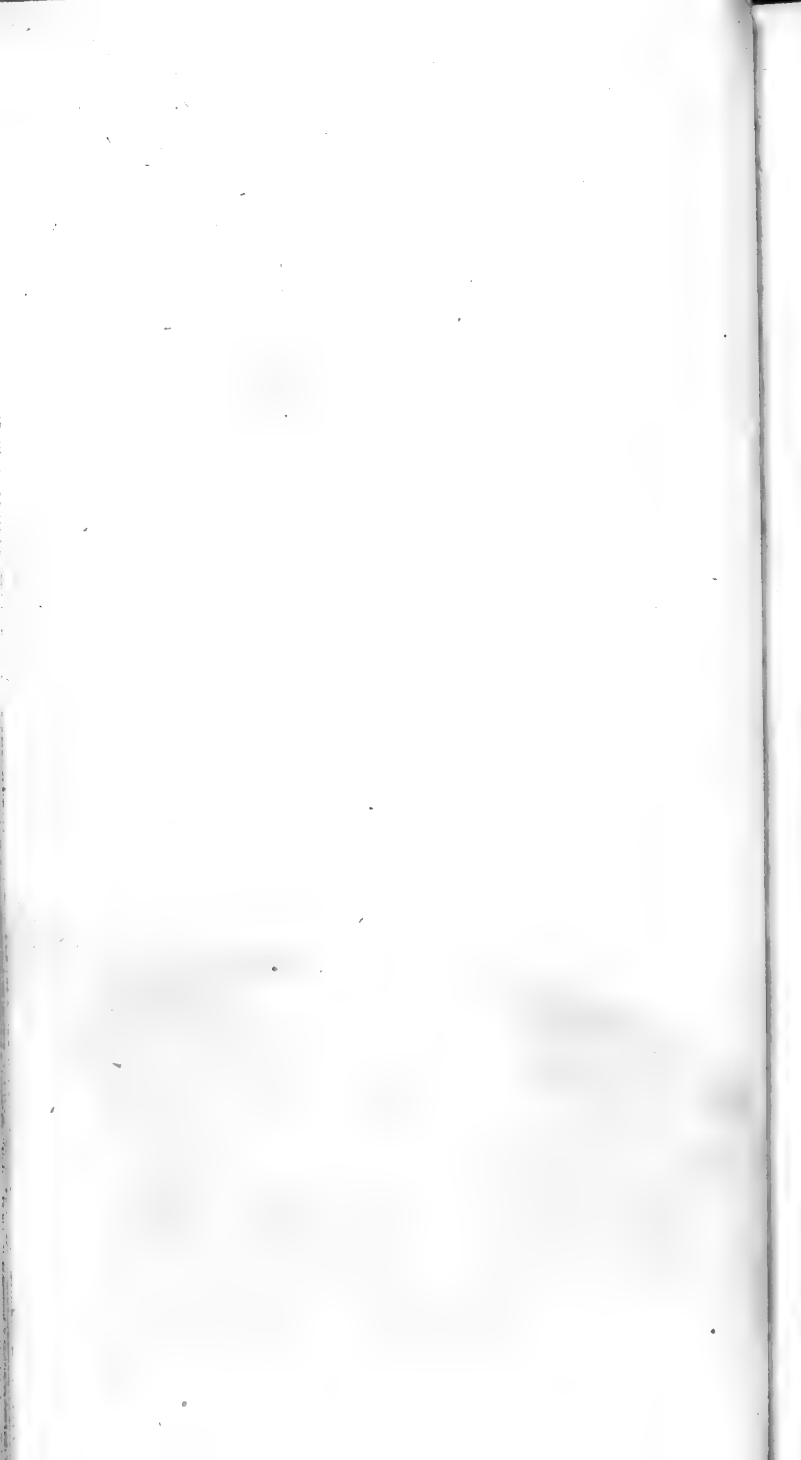
It is not to be wondered at that the Egyptians should shew a particular fondness for a bird, so very useful. It was a crime to kill the Ibis in Egypt, and punished with death.

This

ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> Grallæ.  
Genus 46 Tantalus.



LESSER IBIS.



These birds being treated with so much regard, were no longer afraid of men, but came into the towns, walking about in the streets. They were in great numbers in Alexandria; they consumed many things which were disagreeable, and sometimes were troublesome in stealing provisions that were intended to be saved.

They build their nests in palm-trees, among the thickest leaves, to guard them from cats, who are their greatest enemies. They lay four eggs.

It is said that the Ibis, when it is ill, can relieve its stomach by salt water, which it throws in behind with its bill; and that men have learnt from the Ibis a like method of curing themselves, when they have such complaints.

Mahomet, who first taught the Mahometan religion, is buried at Mecca; the Mahometans go, out of respect to him, to visit his tomb, and they go in numbers like an army. This travelling multitude is called a caravan; they take many camels with them to ride upon, and to carry their tents, their water, and their provision. The Ibis's in great flocks follow these caravans to feast upon the fragments of the provisions which they leave behind. It is remarkable that they are only seen in Arabia at the seasons of the year when the caravans are travelling there.

'There

There are several species of the Ibis. The Wood Ibis is found in Carolina, and in many parts of South America. They frequent open savannahs; they sit in numbers on the tall cypress trees, and rest their heavy bills upon their breasts. Their food is fish and reptiles.

The Egyptian Ibis is about three feet long; the bill is seven inches in length, yellow, a little bending, and ends in a blunt point; the fore part of the head all round as far as the eyes is naked and reddish; the skin under the throat is bare, and can be stretched out. The plumage is of a reddish white; the wing quills and the tail are black. This species of Ibis is found only in Egypt, and in such numbers as to cover the palm trees.

The Scarlet Ibis is found in most parts of America. It frequents the borders of the sea and the sides of rivers; it lives upon insects, and those fish which the sea leaves behind when it goes back from the shore.

The Scarlet Ibis lays its eggs on the ground on a bed of leaves. The young are first black, then brown, and then white, afterwards they become scarlet.

Mr. Latham had a scarlet Ibis in England; he kept it some time among the poultry, but it grew sickly,



sickly, and lost all the gloss of its plumage, and before it died it faded to a dull rose colour.

White Ibis's are found in great numbers in the low marshy lands in Carolina; they stay about six weeks. Their flesh and their fat are said to be of a yellow colour.

The Cayenne Ibis's always go in pairs; they perch on the decayed trees which float down the rivers, in order to catch fish.

A white-headed Ibis, found in the Island of Ceylon, in the East-Indies, was kept tame at Columbo, which is in Ceylon. The feathers at the bottom of his back were of a beautiful pink colour, they were very long, and covered the tail; during the rainy season these pink feathers lost their beautiful colour.

## GENUS 47. SCOLOPAX.

The bill is weak, slender, blunt, and longer than the head.

The nostrils are linear, or very narrow.

The forehead covered with feathers.

Four toes. They rest upon the toe behind as well as upon the other three.

**C**URLEWS are of the Genus Scolopax.

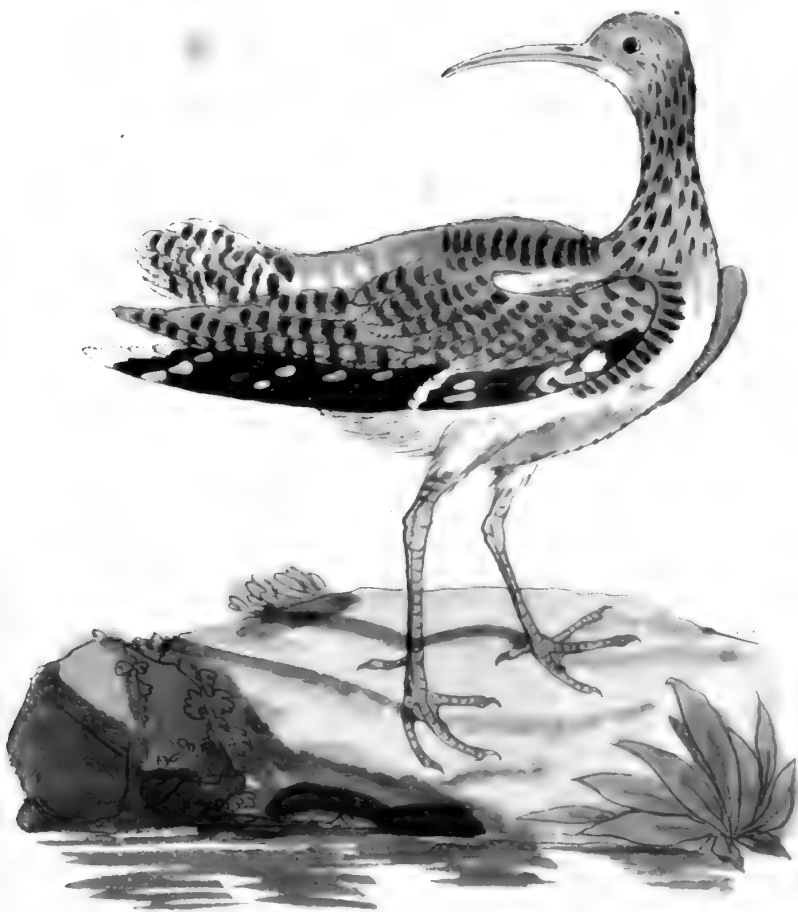
The common Curlew's beak is very long, slender, and furrowed; it is of an equal bend all its length, and ends in a blunt point; it is of a weak and tender substance, and seems designed for picking worms out of soft ground.

The neck and legs are long; the legs are of a bluish colour, in part naked; its bill is five or six inches in length, and its wings, when extended or spread, are more than three feet across, and spotted with black and white.

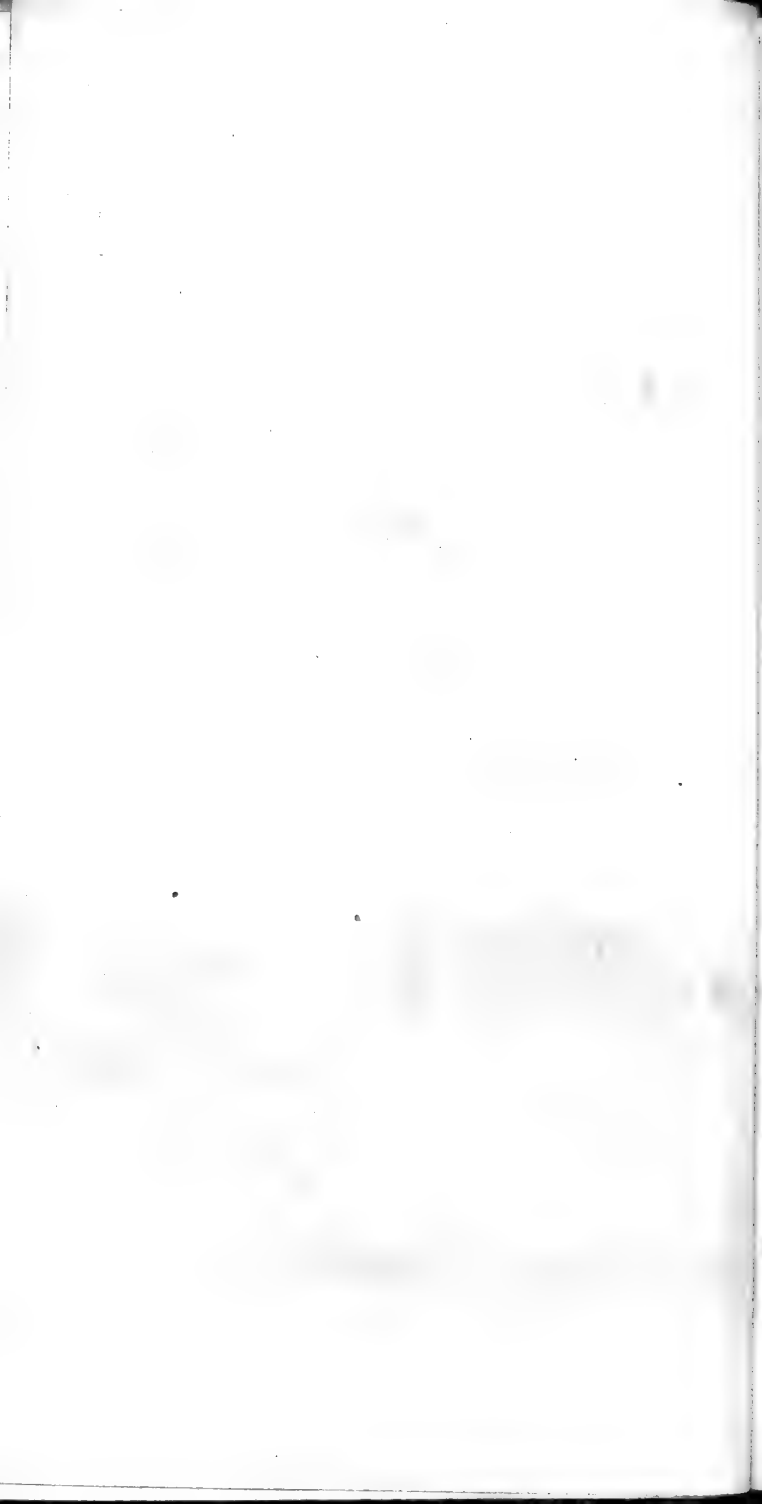
Curlews feed on worms, slugs, insects, and small crustaceous fish, such as shrimps, prawns, little crabs, and lobsters, which they find on the sea shore, in the mud, or in marshes and moist meadows. They run very fast, and fly in flocks.

The Curlew is found all the year in England; in the summer it retires inland to the mountains

ORDER 4<sup>th</sup>. *Grallæ*  
Genus 17. *Acteopar.*

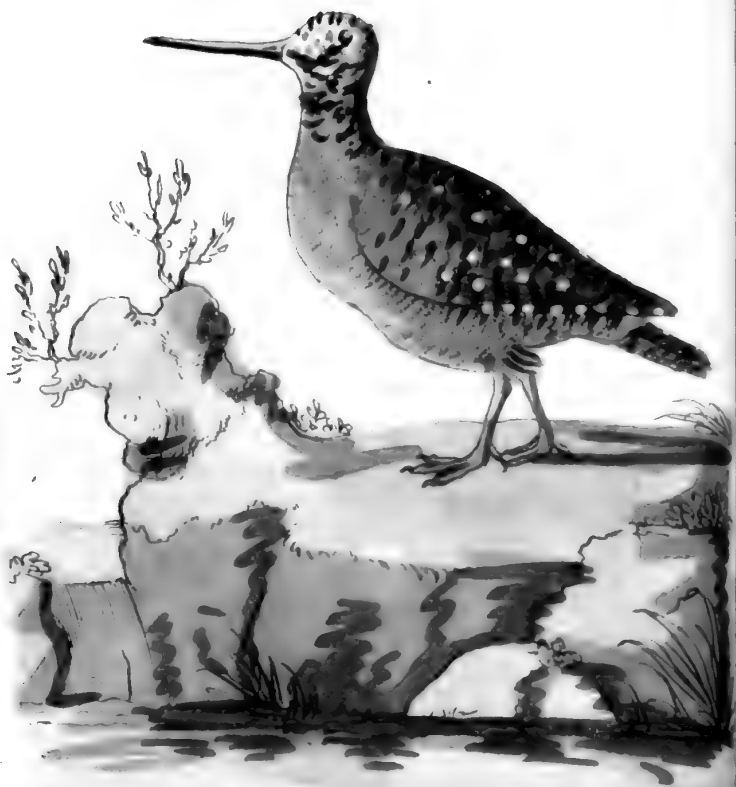


WHIMBREL, or LESSER CURLEW.





ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> Grallæ.  
Genus 17. Scolopax.



WOODCOCK.

tains to breed; in the winter it haunts the sea coasts.

Curlews are found in Greece, in Italy, and the northern parts of Europe and of Asia.

They scrape a few leaves together for a nest, and lay three eggs; the young are hatched in July, and they go back from the mountains to the marshes in August.

The Whimbrel is another Curlew; its beak is bowed, its feet of a blueish cast, and it has dark brown diamond-shaped spots on its back. It is not so frequent in England as the common Curlew, and seems to go from one part of the kingdom to another, if not to other countries: It is from April to May in Lincolnshire and on the Kentish coasts.

The Woodcock's beak is strait, reddish, at the base, it is furrowed the whole length; its legs are ash-coloured, the thighs are covered with feathers, and it has a black streak from the bill to the eyes; the crown of the head and back of the neck are barred with black.

The Woodcock was formerly thought to be a bird of passage, but it is now supposed to retire in the summer to the mountains, and to return to  
lower

lower situations at the approach of winter; at least that is the case in France. They pass the summer on the Alps, or the Pyrenean Mountains, and towards the end of the year they descend to the plains.

They generally come in the night, sometimes in a misty day, one by one, or two together, but never in flocks. They alight in thick hedges, in copses, and in woods; they prefer woods where there is a quantity of loose soil and of fallen leaves; there they retire, and are so still and concealed all day, that they can only be roused by dogs, and frequently they rise almost under the feet of the fowler.

In the evening they leave these places overgrown with wood, in order to go into the glades. They follow the paths and seek for soft ground, and for the moist meadows on the borders of the wood, and little splashes or puddles of water: they go there to wash their beaks, and their feet which are clotted with earth, in their search for worms.

The Woodcock flaps its wings with some noise when it rises. It flies very straight in a wood of tall trees, but in a copse it is often obliged to wind. It often drops behind bushes, in order to conceal itself from the eye of the fowler: but though its flight be quick, it is neither high nor

long,



long, and its descent is so sudden, that it seems to fall like a stone. - A few moments after it reaches the ground it runs forward very fast, it stops very soon, raises its head, and looks on every side to be certain that no danger is near, before it plunges its bill into the earth.

Though the Woodcock has large eyes, it is probable that it may not see very well but at twilight, for it flies the most in the evening and at the dawn of the day. This inclination to fly at those seasons seems so strong, that those which have been confined, regularly attempted a flight every evening and morning.

When the nights are dark, it is very probable that the Woodcocks are still, but when the moon shines they go about in search of food.

Snare is laid for them, either at night or in the evening; they are taken different ways by nets and by snares. They are shot in marshes, and near rivulets.

A net sometimes is stretched between two large trees, in the glades, and at the borders of woods, where they come or pass upon the wing in the evening and morning. They are also taken upon the marshes at night.

The fowler lies hid near the rivulet or the marsh frequented by Woodcocks, and waits for them there: soon after the sun is set, especially if  
there

there be a gentle wind from the south, or south-west, they always appear one at a time, or one or two together, and alight near the water, and the fowler is almost sure to shoot them; but this is not so certain a method of taking them, as the placing of springs or snares in the paths.

On each side of the spring or snare the path is stopped or filled with stones or bushes; the Woodcock, who always follows the path, and never likes to rise from the ground to get over any thing in its way, walks upon the snare; as soon as it is touched the snare springs up, and the bird is caught, either by the neck or the leg, in the noose, and hung in the air. The Woodcock caught in this manner flutters very much. The fowler should visit his snares more than once in a night, lest the fox should take the birds, for he is very sly and very industrious, and can hear the flapping of their wings at a distance, and sometimes he will go to these snares, one after another, and carry away the Woodcocks, and bury them in different places until he may have occasion for them.

In meadows where there are no paths, furrows are sometimes turned up, that the Woodcocks may walk along them in search of worms, and snares are laid in these furrows.

The Woodcock's beak, which is very long and very tender at the point, would prevent its feeding upon grain, and indeed Woodcocks only feed upon worms. They do not scratch up the earth with their feet, but only remove the leaves which cover the ground with their bills, throwing them very quickly on each side.

A Prince of Spain formerly confined some in an aviary; there was a spring of water continually running through it to keep the soil moist, and fresh turfs were constantly procured well stored with worms. The worms in vain attempted to conceal themselves, when the Woodcocks were hungry they seemed to smell them, for they put their beaks into the ground (never higher than the nostrils) and drew out the worms, then they raised the beak in the air, and extending the worms, or letting the worms lie along it, the Woodcocks suffered them gently to pass down their throats.

The Woodcock's head is rather square than round, and its eyes are placed very far back in the head, that when its beak is thrust into the ground it may not hurt its eyes.

The Woodcock is very delicate food, yet there is something in the smell of this bird so disagreeable to dogs, that there is only one kind that will touch them.

About

About the month of March they return from the plains to the mountains. They go away paired, then they fly swiftly all the night without stopping. They hide themselves in the woods all the day, they set out again in the evening to continue their flight.

They make their nests on the ground, as all birds do who cannot perch: the nest is composed of leaves and dried grass, intermixed with little sticks; it is made with very little art, at the foot of a tree, or under a root, and they lay four or five eggs.

As soon as the young are hatched they leave the nest, and run though they are only covered with down. They begin to fly, too, as soon as they have quill feathers, and before the feathers are formed upon their bodies.

When they are discovered they run and flutter, and their parents have been seen to take one of their young ones, probably the weakest, and carry it more than a mile.

The parent birds are very fond of each other, and the one often rests its bill upon the back of the other. The Woodcock is found in the continent of America, as well as in Europe, Asia, and Africa, and in almost every climate.

Though the Woodcock may not be a bird of passage in France, it is very likely that it does not stay all the year in the northern parts of Europe; they are supposed to leave Norway and Sweden as soon as the frosts begin, for then in those very cold countries they could scarcely provide themselves with food, such as worms, &c. About that time they make their appearance in England. They generally arrive in flocks, but soon separate.

They begin to arrive in October, but they appear in the greatest numbers about November or December.

They always come after sun-set, and it is the wind that determines their flight. If the wind have favoured them, they stay a very little while on the sea coast, but if it has been against them, they stay perhaps a day to rest themselves, and they have sometimes been so tired as to drop in flocks in a town, and to allow themselves to be taken in the streets by the hand. In March they flock towards the coast in order to leave us; if the wind be contrary, they are in such plenty that great numbers are killed by the fowlers. If they be detained a long time on the dry heaths they become very lean. The instant the wind is fair they all fly away, and not one can be found where hundreds might have been seen the day before.

The

The beak of the Snipe is strait, and often rough like shagreen above and below; the feet are of a pale green.

The head is divided by two black lines lengthwise, and three red lines.

The Snipe is smaller than the Woodcock, and very much like it in its plumage, but very different in its manners; for the Snipe never frequents woods, but confines itself to marshy situations, in long grass, and the osiers or willows on the banks of pools or rivers.

The Snipe rises so high that its cry is heard when it can no longer be seen: Snipes have two different cries. They make their appearance in autumn; sometimes three or four are seen at a time, but most frequently only one. They rise when the fowler is at a great distance, and fly very swiftly, and after dipping three times, they dart forwards two or three hundred yards, or point strait upwards and rise out of sight, and make a strange bleating noise. The fowler brings them lower sometimes by imitating their cry.

Snipes remain in England and in France all the winter, near warm springs that do not freeze. They generally leave us in the summer. They build their nests in June, on the ground, near the large root of a willow, or of an alder-tree, in marshy

marshy places, where they cannot be disturbed by cattle: it is made of dry grass and of feathers, and contains four or five eggs.

The young ones leave the nest as soon as they quit the shell; and their parents take care of them until their long bills (which at first are very soft) become so hard, that they can use them to provide for themselves. It is very likely that Snipes feed upon worms.

Snipes are very difficult to be shot, because they hide themselves carefully in marshes, where it is not easy to go to them; but they may be taken in snares, like Woodcocks. Snipes are very delicate food. They do not seem to be so plentiful as Woodcocks, but they are found in almost every part of the world.

They will not bear confinement, and therefore cannot be brought up tame.

In those islands where they have been undisturbed by men, they shew no signs of fear.

They build their nests in an open exposed situation, and do not dip when they first take their flight. The cock Snipe, whilst his mate is sitting, poises himself on his wings, and makes sometimes a whistling, and sometimes a drumming noise.

When they are disturbed, especially in the breeding season, they soar to a vast height, and

when they descend, they dart down with amazing swiftness.

Godwits are another species of the Scolopax.

Their bodies are in the same form as that of the Woodcock, but their legs are longer, and the bill is of a greater length, although nearly of the same form: it is straight, or slightly bending upwards, the point is blunt: they live upon worms, which they take out of the mud. Their voice is very uncommon, a little like the cry of a goat, partly stifled. Godwits are very restless, and rise when the fowler is at a distance, and scream through fear.

They are seen in numbers in salt marshes, generally near the sea-shore. They make their appearance here and in France about the month of September; they may be seen in flocks, very high in the air, by moon-light; and they make a noise as they pass along.

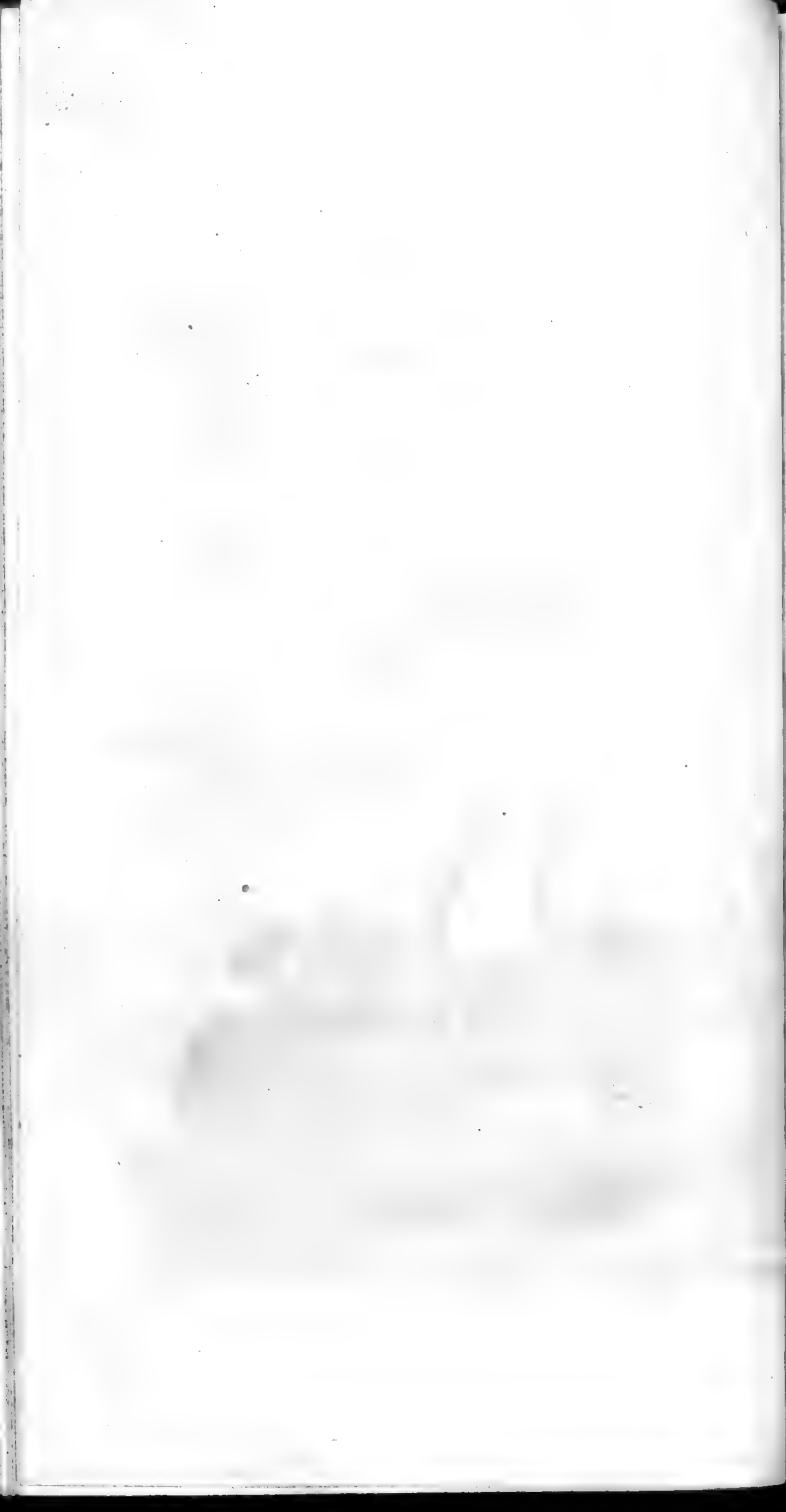
They alight sometimes in marshes, and are so tired that they do not like to begin to fly again; they take to their wings with some difficulty, but they run very fast like Partridges, yet the fowler overtakes them, and drives so many together, that he kills several with one shot.



ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> Grallæ.  
Genus 46 Scolopax.



REDBREASTED GODWIT.





ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> *Gralla*  
Genus 48 *Tringa*.



RUFF.

Godwits seldom stay more than a day or two in the same place; where there has been a great number the day before, on the next day scarcely one can be found. They are very delicate food, and there are several of this species.

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#### GENUS 48. TRINGA.

The beak is slender, and about the same length as the head.  
The nostrils linear, or very narrow.

Four toes, that behind has only one joint, and is raised above the ground.

**T**HE Ruff is one of the Genus Tringa; its beak and legs are red; the three tail feathers on each side are without spots; the forehead is rough, with reddish warts.

The Ruffs are very courageous and quarrelsome birds; they fight not only one against another, but in regular bodies, one troop fighting another. Those that fight are males, and they are said to be in greater numbers than the females of this species.

Every spring they arrive in large flocks, on the coasts of Holland, of England, and of France.

The male Ruffs are so different in the spring one from another, that they might naturally be

supposed to be birds of a different species; for they are not alike in shape, or in colour, or in the size of the ruff which they have upon their necks.

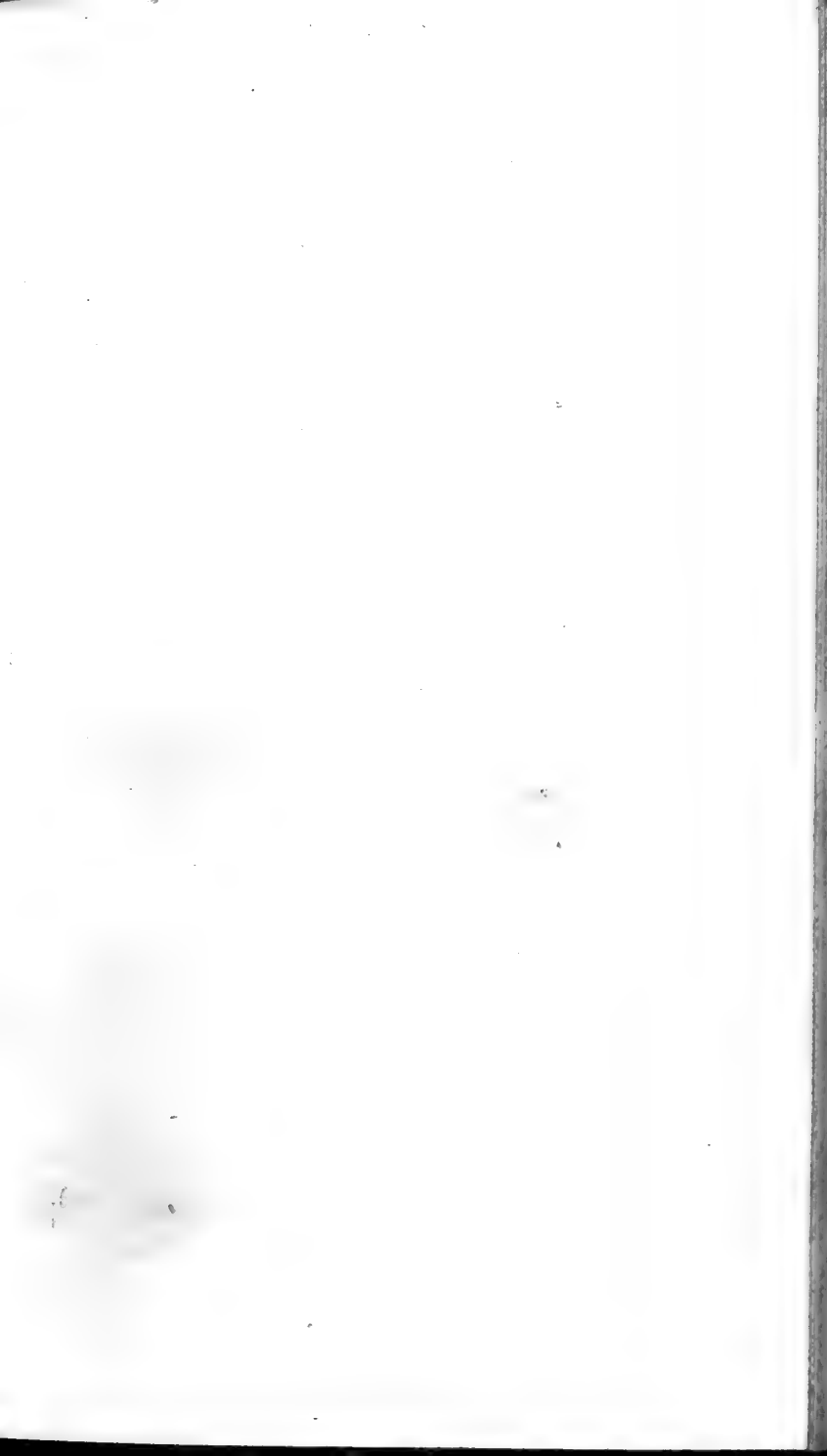
It is very surprizing too, that this ruff, and the pimples upon their face, appear only in the spring, a little before the breeding season.

In order to take them the fowler watches when they are busy in fighting, and then catches them in his net. They are fattened upon bread and milk; but to keep them quiet, they must be confined in dark places, for so soon as they see any light, they begin to fight.

The ruff round the neck is not only an ornament to the males, but a defence besides. In some it is grey, in some reddish, in some white, and in some of a deepish violet.

Towards the end of June they lose their ruff and the pimples. The males then are not easily known from the females.

So soon as the Ruffs arrive in England, the males collect together on some dry bank, near a splash of water. Each male keeps possession of a small piece of ground, he runs round it until the grass be worn quite away, and only a naked circle is left. When they are kept in a room each male takes its stand just in the same manner.



ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> Grallo.  
Genus 48 Tringa.



LAPWING.



and fights with any other the moment he comes into his circle.

Mr. Pennant says, a whole room full of Ruffs began to fight, by making them change their stations, but soon after they returned to their own places and became peaceable.

The Lapwing is another species of the *Tringa*, its legs are red, the breast black, and it has a crest that falls backwards behind its head.

It is called Lapwing from the noise which it makes with its wings as it flies. Its wings are strong, and it uses them much. It flies a long time, and rises very high. When it is upon the ground, it springs forward, hops and skims along the surface by short and broken flights.

The Lapwing is a very sprightly bird, he is constantly in motion; he sports in the air and puts himself into many different situations; sometimes with his back downwards, sometimes on one side with his wings one above and one below his body; no bird gambols and plays more lightly.

Lapwings appear in meadows, in England, in great flocks, about the beginning of March, and soon after a thaw. They frequent green corn-fields, and in the morning they almost cover the marshy meadows in search of worms: when they see those little lumps of earth which the worms

throw out, they move them gently away, and strike the ground with their feet: they keep their eyes fixed upon the spot; the worm is frightened and comes out, and the Lapwing immediately seizes it with its beak. At night they run along the grass and feel with their feet the worms that are come upon the surface to enjoy the dew of the evening. They take great numbers of them, and then they wash their beaks and their feet in little rivulets or puddles.

As soon as the weather grows a little warm, the Lapwings separate and pair. They lay in April, three or four eggs, in marshes, upon a little heap of earth, to keep them from the wet; and their eggs are very nice food. They sit twenty days; the female is almost constantly on the nest; and if any thing frightens her she runs along the grass, and does not rise until she is at some distance from the nest, that she may not shew where it is. Old Lapwings, whose nests have frequently been robbed, make them amongst the corn, where they are more safe. The little ones, two or three days after they are hatched, run after their parents, who are very artful in deceiving such as are searching for their young. As soon as the female perceives these enemies, she leaves her nest and runs towards them: she then rises from the ground  
with

with a screaming noise and flies around their heads. She cries the most, and seems the most alarmed, when they are not very near the nest. Sometimes too she will run along limping, as if she were lame, to draw them from the young. The little ones on the first alarm, lie quite still and close to the ground; and it is at any time very difficult to take them, without a dog, because they run so fast. In July they moult, or get new feathers; about that time all the Lapwings belonging to a marsh, get together: they join the flocks of the neighbouring marshes, and in a few days they increase to the number of five or six hundred: they skim along the air, or wander in the meadows; and after rains they frequent ground that is plowed, to look for worms. When they are in flocks they do not stay long in any place, indeed they cannot, for they very soon destroy all the worms there, and are obliged to seek another spot.

In the month of October they are very fat, for then they find worms in the greatest plenty.

In Champagne, in France, they take great numbers of Lapwings in nets, by means of a looking-glass; they take them into a meadow, and place between the nets some Lapwings that are stuffed, and one or two of the birds alive, to call the others, or else the bird-catcher is hid and imitates their

cry, and the whole flock is deceived and alights in the nets.

Lapwings are well covered with feathers and down; they have a crest of five or six delicate narrow feathers, of a beautiful black, the two uppermost cover the others, and are much longer. The crest does not grow from the forehead, but from the back part of the head

Lapwings may be tamed; they will eat beeves-heart chopped small; and they are often kept in gardens to destroy the worms.

The Hebridal Turnstone is another *Tringa*; its forehead, throat and stomach are white; the breast is black, and the neck is surrounded by a black collar; the back is mixed with black; its legs are short and of a full orange or red colour.

This bird is called the Turnstone, because it turns the stones by the water-side, to find the worms and the insects which may be under them; upon these the Turnstone feeds.

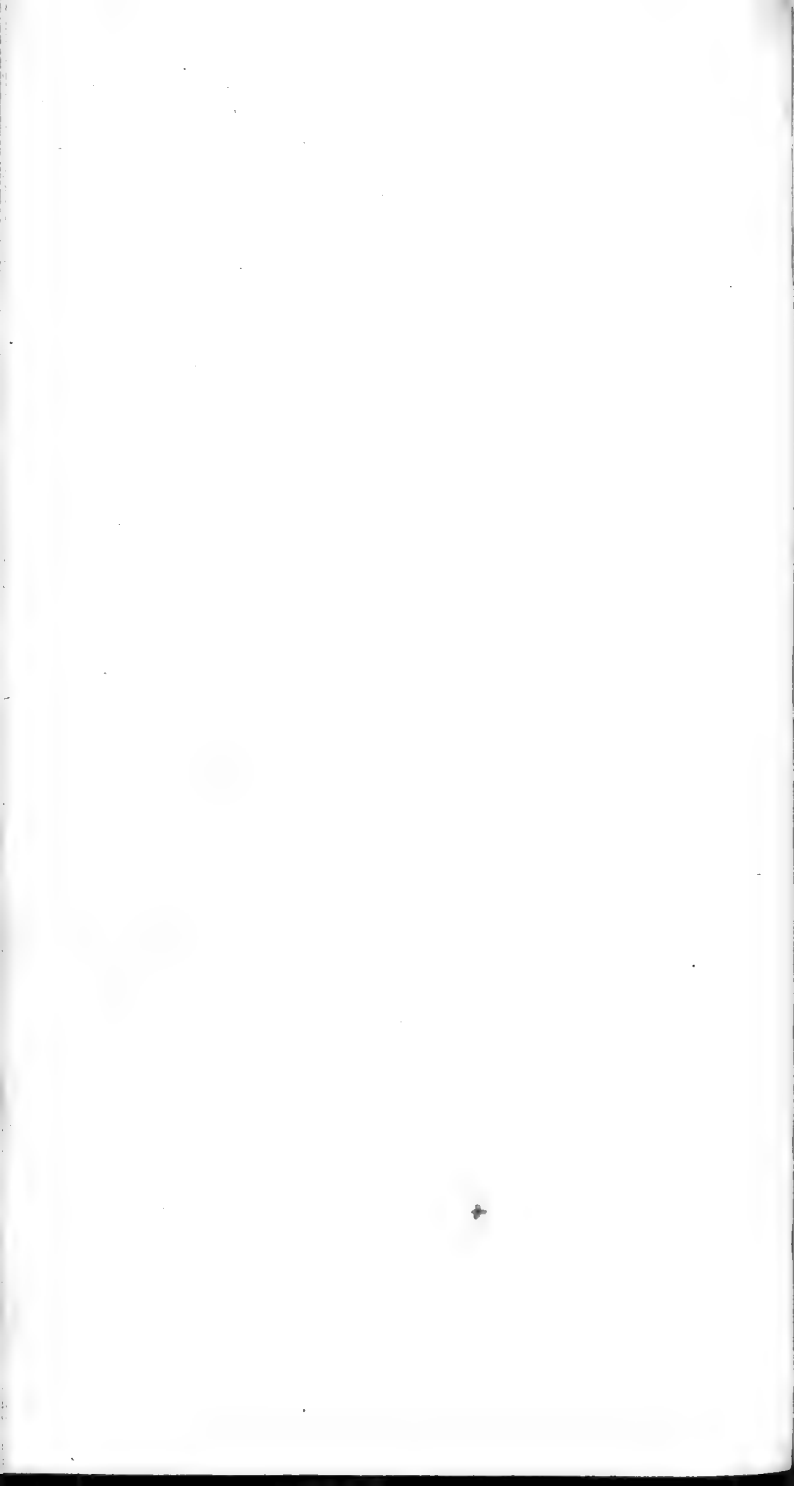
Catesby says, when he was at sea, 40 leagues, or 120 miles from Florida, a bird flew on board the ship, and was caught; he was very expert in turning stones; he only used the upper part of his bill, and yet he very readily turned over stones which weighed three pounds.

Turnstones

ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> Grallæ.  
Genus 48 *Tringa*.



HEBRIDAL TURNSTONE.



Turnstones are found in America, and in Europe: they appear in flocks on the Western coast of England. They make a slight nest on the ground, lay four eggs, and hatch early.

The striated Sandpiper is another Tringa; its legs and the bow of its beak are yellow; the tail-feathers are white, barred with brown; the wing-feathers some are black, some tipped with white, and some white, barred with black. It inhabits the Northern parts of Europe, and runs backwards and forwards on the beach, as the waves come near to, or go back from the shore: it feeds on such insects as the sea leaves behind. It often skims near the surface of the water, like a Swallow, and feeds on insects: it rises and falls with the waves, but is careful never to touch them. In breeding time it comes within the shore: it lays four or five eggs; twitters like a Swallow; is said to be good food; and its feathers are used in pillows and beds.

The Purre is another species of Sandpiper; it is common in America. In winter it is found in England. It flies in large circles, and one part of the circle is over the water, and the other over the land.

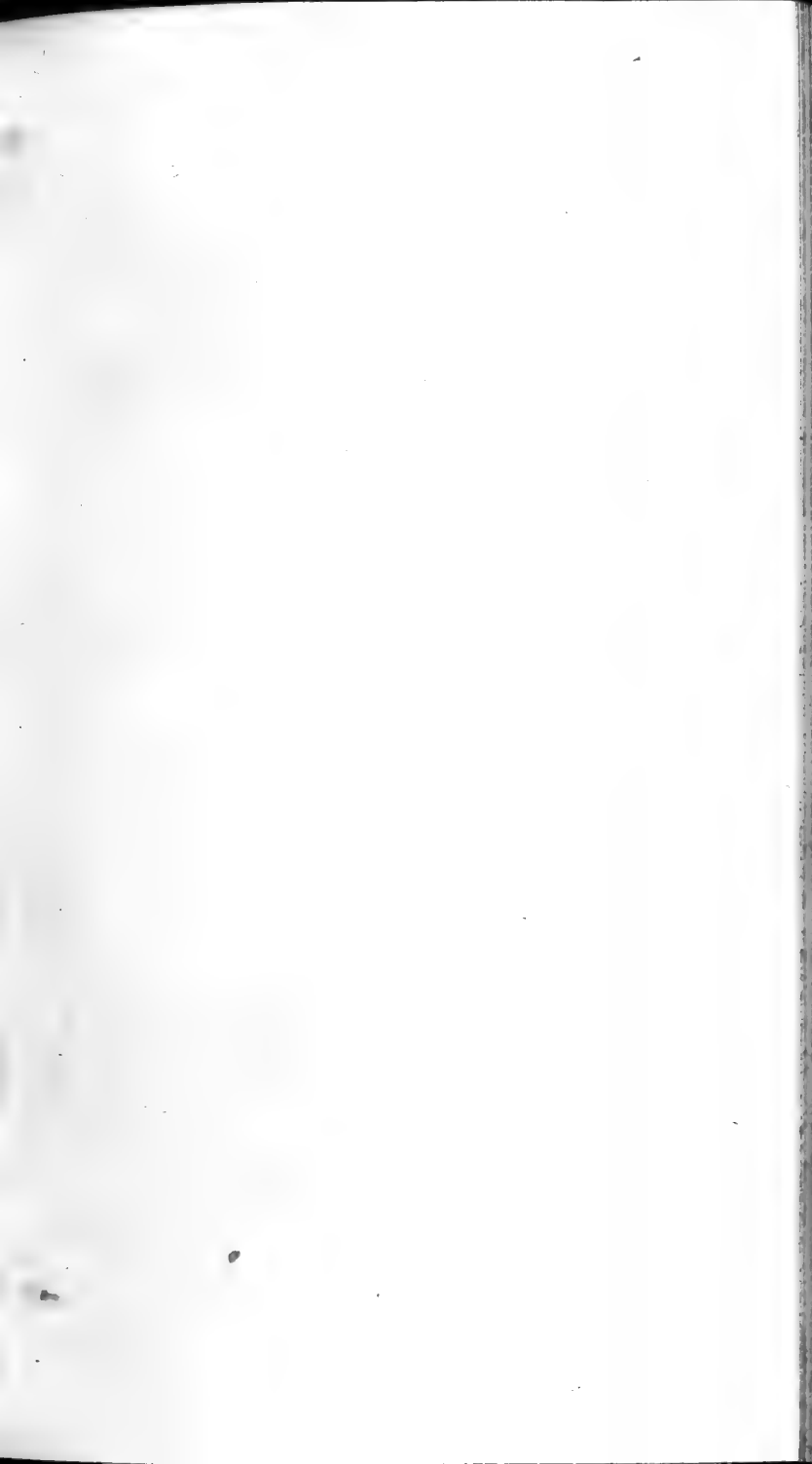
The Green Sandpiper is a very beautiful bird; the head and hind part of the neck are of a brown-

ish ash-colour, streaked with white; the back is of a dusky green, glossy like silk; the stomach and outer tail-feathers are white; the legs are of a greenish lead colour.

Green Sandpipers frequent little streams of fresh water: they run along the shore, or skim along the surface of the water. They make a noise when they rise, and whilst they fly flap their wings now and then. The Green Sandpiper plunges into the water, sometimes, when it is pursued. Small Buzzards frequently chase it; sometimes they surprize it whilst it rests itself on the banks of the water, or as it is seeking for its food; for Sandpipers have no sentinels to watch for them as many birds have who fly in flocks, and for that reason they are more easily destroyed by the fowler: each lives alone in the little district that he has chosen, by the side of the stream. Though they live lonely in the summer, when they move from one country to another, they fly in little flocks of five or six, and are heard in the air, when the nights are still. They frequent too the mouths of rivers, and following the waves, feed upon little worms, or the spawn of fish, which they find on the sand.

The Sandpiper is very nice food, though it has rather a musky taste, and a musky smell.





ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> Grallæ.  
Genus 48 Tringa.



COOTFOOTED TRINGA.

The common Sandpiper has a slight brown bill; the legs are of a greenish-brown; the body ash-coloured, with black spots, white beneath; three tail-feathers on the outside white, the middle tail-feathers brown. It flirts its tail as it walks like the Water-wagtail: it lives lonely, by the water-side, and in its manner very much resembles the Green Sandpiper.

The Knot is another of the *Tringa* genus; its bill is slender, and, as well as the legs, of a dusky ash colour; the eye-brow, the streaks upon the wings, and the outer tail-feathers are white; the lower part of the back dark ash-colour, mixed with white, forming spots like crescents, or half moons. They come into Lincolnshire at the beginning of winter, and stay there two or three months. They fly in flocks, and keep near the sea-shore. They may be fattened with bread and milk, and are very nice food. They are taken in nets, and are decoyed into them by stales, or pieces of wood painted like the Knots themselves.

There are many other species of the *Tringa*, but their manners and way of living are very much like those already described.

## GENUS 49. CHARARDRIUS.

The beak is slender and blunt.

The nostrils are narrow.

They have three toes, and their feet are formed for running.

**P**LOVERS appear in great numbers in the Provinces of France, during the rains in Autumn. They frequent low, and moist, and marshy situations, where they seek for worms and insects. Every morning they go to the water to wash their bills and their feet, which must be clogged with dirt in their search for food. They strike the ground with their feet, to make the worms come out upon the surface; and they seize them with their beaks, even before they are entirely out of the earth. It is very probable that they can fast a long while: a Gentleman kept one fourteen days, and all that time he only drank a little water, and swallowed a few grains of sand. They seldom stay more than twenty-four hours in one place, for they come in great flocks, and soon destroy all the worms; this obliges them to seek another situation; and as soon as the snow appears they almost all fly away to milder climates.

They

ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> *Grallo.*  
*Genus 49 Charadrius.*



SPOTTED PLOVER.



They come back in the Spring, but always in flocks. A Plover is seldom seen alone; indeed, there are seldom less than fifty in a flock. Whilst they are on the ground, they are in constant motion, always seeking for worms. Several of them stand sentinel, or watch, whilst the rest are employed in feeding. On the least danger these sentinels make a shrill noise, and at that signal they all fly away. They fly with the wind, and their manner of flying is very singular. They range themselves in a line, not in length, one after another, but in rank, or side by side, so that they form narrow lines in the air of a great extent: sometimes several of these lines are seen at once.

When the Plovers are on the ground, they run much, and very fast. They continue in flocks all the day, and only separate at night: every one roosts on a little spot by itself; but by day break, that which awakes first, or that which is the most industrious, calls the rest. They all come together at this call. This is the time which the fowlers chuse to endeavour to take them. Before day they stretch a long net just opposite the spot where they observed the plovers roost the evening before. The fowlers surround them in considerable numbers; and when the Plover, who awakes first, begins to call, the fowlers lie along the ground

ground to give the Plovers an opportunity of flocking together. As soon as they are collected, the fowlers rise from the ground, make a great noise, and throw their sticks up in the air; the Plovers are affrighted, take to their wings, and skim low, just above the ground, and so strike against the net, which is immediately let fall upon them. Frequently the whole flock is taken. But one fowler alone, in a more easy manner, sometimes takes a considerable number; he conceals himself behind his net, and with a bird-call, made of bark, he imitates the cry of the Plovers, and draws them into his snare.

Plovers inhabit England the whole year: in France they stay but a little while; they disappear as soon as the snow begins to fall; they return in the Spring for a short time only, for in the Summer they go into more northern climates to breed.

There are several species of the *Charadrius*.

The ringed Plover is one species: it is found in both Continents, from Siberia to the Cape of Good Hope; and from the Straits of Magellan, to Hudson's Bay, in America.

The Ringed Plovers live near the sea-shores, and follow the tides: they run very fast upon the sands, and take short flights, and twitter loud; if  
they



they are much disturbed they either fly away, or creep into some hole until the danger be over. They come to England in the Spring, and leave it in Autumn. They lay four eggs, under some shelter on the ground, for they make no nest; and the young cannot begin to fly until they are a month or five weeks old. The parent birds take much pains to mislead those who are searching for their nest.

The noisy Plover is another species; it is about the size of a Snipe; it is only found in America. The fowlers very much dislike this bird, because the moment any person comes in sight he sets up a great noise, which gives the alarm to all the birds that are near, and they fly away and disappoint the fowler.

The Alexandrian and Egyptian Plovers are two other species; they both inhabit Egypt, and feed on small frogs and on insects.

The Dottrell is another species; it is very delicate food. It is found in the northern parts of Europe, from England to Sweden and Lapland. Dottrels migrate, or remove from the plains to the mountains, and back again to the plains, in April and in August. They feed on beetles, on worms, and on snails. They are in great numbers in the county of Norfolk. It is said that  
they

they are sometimes taken in the following manner : five or six fowlers set out together, and as soon as they see the Dottrels they fix their nets; then they go round, so that the birds may be between some of them and the nets : they slightly rouse the birds by striking two stones, or two pieces of wood, together. These indolent Dottrels awake, stretch out a leg, or a wing : the fowlers imitate them by stretching out a leg or an arm : they pretend to think that it amuses the birds, and prevents their attending to the nets. The Dottrels then go away slowly from the fowlers, till they get to the net, which is suffered to fall upon them : but this method is now nearly out of use, and the fowlers shoot them.

The great Plover is grey ; the two first quill-feathers are black, except in the middle, there they are white ; the bill is sharp and black ; the feet are ash-colour. The lower eye-lid is naked and clay-coloured ; there is a little yellow line above and beneath the eyes, and a brown line from the beak, under the eyes, to the ears.

The wings of these Plovers are very large ; they rise when the fowler is at a great distance, especially in the day, and then they fly very near the ground ; they run upon mosses, and in the fields, as fast as a dog. After they have run a little  
time

time they suddenly stop, and stand motionless; at the least noise they keep close to the ground. Flies, beetles, and little snails, with other insects, such as crickets, grasshoppers, &c. are their chief food; sometimes, too, they eat little lizards, and young snakes.

The great Plovers, in the day time, are silent and solitary; that is, they remain separate: but in the evening their cry is heard at a great distance from the hills. They fly about then very swiftly, and come near our houses.

These birds are wild and timorous, and so quick-sighted, that they see the fowler and fly away from him before he can get within gun-shot of them. They seem all day long to keep still through fear. It is said that they are very restless and uneasy just before a storm. They keep this habit, as well as their fearfulness, even in confinement.

These birds differ in this respect from other Plovers, that they only frequent dry and high places. They leave France in November; but before they set out they get together in flocks, of three or four hundred each, at the cry of one who calls them, and they all set out in the night.

The

The female lays two or three eggs on the bare ground, amongst the stones, or in a little hollow which she forms in the sand.

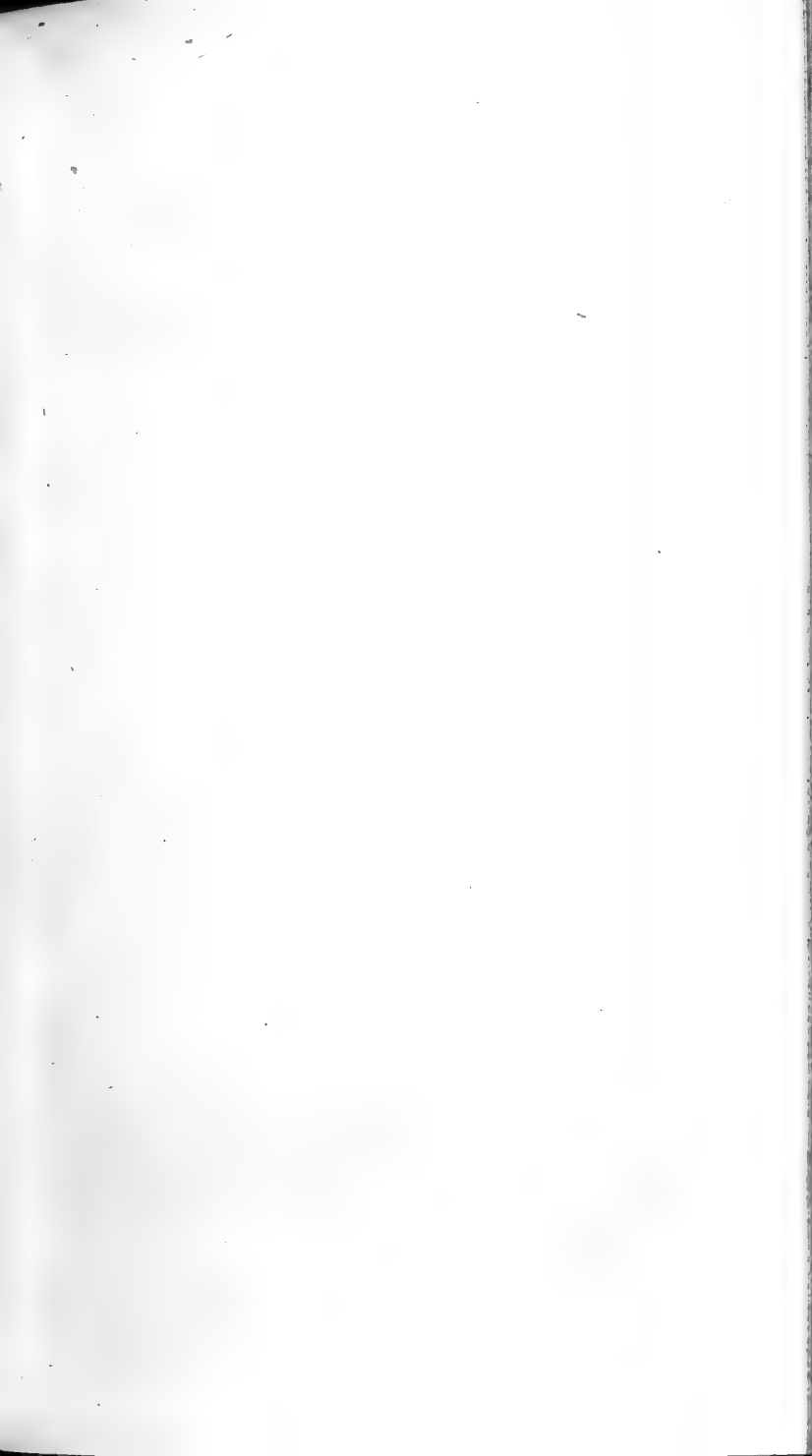
The male assists the female-bird in the care of the young, and in teaching them to know what is proper for their food. This education continues some time, for though the young can follow their parents almost as soon as they are hatched, it is a long time before their wings are strong enough for flying.

The great Plovers are found in England, but not in the more northern parts of Europe.

The long-legged Plover is white; the back and beak are both black; the beak is longer than the head; the legs are red and very long.

The legs of this Plover are so long, and weak, that it can walk but slowly, and with difficulty; but it can fly very well, for its wings are long and reach beyond the tail. It is not a very common bird in England. Its food is principally flies; it is found in the marshes in Egypt, in October, and near the salt lakes, and on the shore of the Caspian sea, in the East Indies, and in some parts of America.

The Spur-winged Plover's breast, quill-feathers, and legs are black; the hind-part of the head is crested; the tail-feathers are half white; and on  
the



ORDER 1<sup>th</sup> Grallæ.  
Genus 50. *Recurvirostra*.



AYOUE T.

the fore part of each wing, just within the bend, it has a black spur, about half an inch in length. It inhabits marshy places, in lower Egypt, in the month of September ; it is sometimes called the Dominican, because the colours of its plumage are thought to be very much like the dress of the Dominicans.

The Dominicans are a religious order, or society of men, and like many other religious orders, wear a particular dress.

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#### GENUS 50. RECURVIROSTRA.

#### THE A V O C E T.

The beak is thin, depressed, slender, bent upwards, pointed, and the point is flexible, or easily bent.

The nostrils are narrow and pervious.

The feet are webbed, and it has three toes forwards ; the back toe is very small.

**M**OST birds with webbed feet have short legs, it is not however the case with the Avocet, for his legs are very long. But this is not the most remarkable appearance in the Avocet, for its beak is bent upwards, is very tender, thin, and

and weak, and almost like skin at the point: it is compressed horizontally, or flattened. It frequents the sea-shore, and seeks in the foam of the waves the spawn of fish, which seems to be its principal food; perhaps, indeed, it may feed upon worms: it seems to prefer those situations where rivers run into the sea. The plumage on the fore-part is of a beautiful white, on the back, or, rather, on the wings, it is intermixed with black; the tail is white, the beak black; and the legs are blue.

The Avocet from the length of its legs, runs along the ground when it is covered five or six inches deep with water: but where the water is deeper it is obliged to swim. It is a very lively bird, and quick in all its motions. It stays but a little while in a place, and often goes away the day after it comes. The Avocet, for that reason, is not very easily taken.

The lower part of the back of the Avocet is often a little clotted with dirt, and the feathers near the tail seem a little worn, as though they were rubbed: it is very probable that it may wipe the beak on its feathers, and rest it upon the back, when it sleeps, as Pigeons support theirs on their breasts.

The Avocet avoids all snares, and is very difficult to be taken alive.





ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> Grallae.  
Genus 51. *Hematopus*.



OYSTER CATCHER.

GENUS 51. HÆMATOPUS.

## THE OYSTER-CATCHER.

The beak is long, compressed sideways, and wedge-shaped at the point.

The tongue scarcely one third the length of the bill.

The nostrils are narrow.

The feet formed for running, with three toes divided.

**T**HE Oyster-catcher feeds upon sea-worms, oysters, limpets, and other shell-fish, which he picks up near the sea. He always confines himself to the shore and the sand-banks that are uncovered, when the tide is out, and follows the ebb: and he never wanders far, either from the land or from the rocks.

These birds are sometimes called Sea-pies, not only because their plumage is black and white, but because, like the Magpye, they are continually making a noise, especially when they are in flocks: this sharp and quick cry is repeated constantly, either when they are at rest, or when they fly.

The

The Oyster-catcher is about the size of a Royston Crow; its bill is about four inches long; it is contracted or narrowed, and as it were compressed above the nostrils and flattened at the sides, in the form of an hatchet. This is a very odd form, and makes the beak very proper for separating oysters, limpets, and other shell-fish, from the rocks, upon which these birds feed. When it sees an oyster gape wide enough, it immediately puts in its bill and takes out the fish.

The Oyster-catchers have but three toes, and scarcely any membrane between, yet they frequent the sea-shores, and sometimes swim upon the sea. They do not seem to labour when they are upon the water, but suffer themselves to be tossed by the waves; yet they are not afraid of meeting them, and can leave the sea when they please.

A Gentleman kept one of these birds more than two months in his garden; it fed upon earth-worms chiefly, but would eat raw meat, and even bread, which it seemed to like very well; it would drink either fresh or salt water, without seeming to prefer one to the other. Yet Oyster-catchers always live in the neighbourhood of the sea.

The Oyster-catcher makes no nest, but lays its eggs on the bare sand, out of the reach of the tide. It lays four or five eggs, and it is about three weeks

weeks before these eggs are hatched. The female bird does not sit close, like many water-fowl; she leaves the eggs about ten o'clock in the morning, and does not return until about three in the afternoon: she suffers the eggs to be warmed by the sun in the middle of the day.

The little Oyster-catchers, as soon as they leave the shell, are covered with a black down: they can run in a few days; and then they hide themselves so well in the tufts of grass, or other herbage, that it is very difficult to find them.

The beak and feet of the Oyster-catcher are of a beautiful red, like coral.

The outer and middle toes of the Oyster-catcher are united until the first joint, by a little web, or skin, and they are all bordered with a membrane. The legs are strong and thick, and the feet are remarkable for the rough and scaly skin which covers them. The eyelids are red, and under each eye is a little white spot. The head, neck, and shoulders are black.

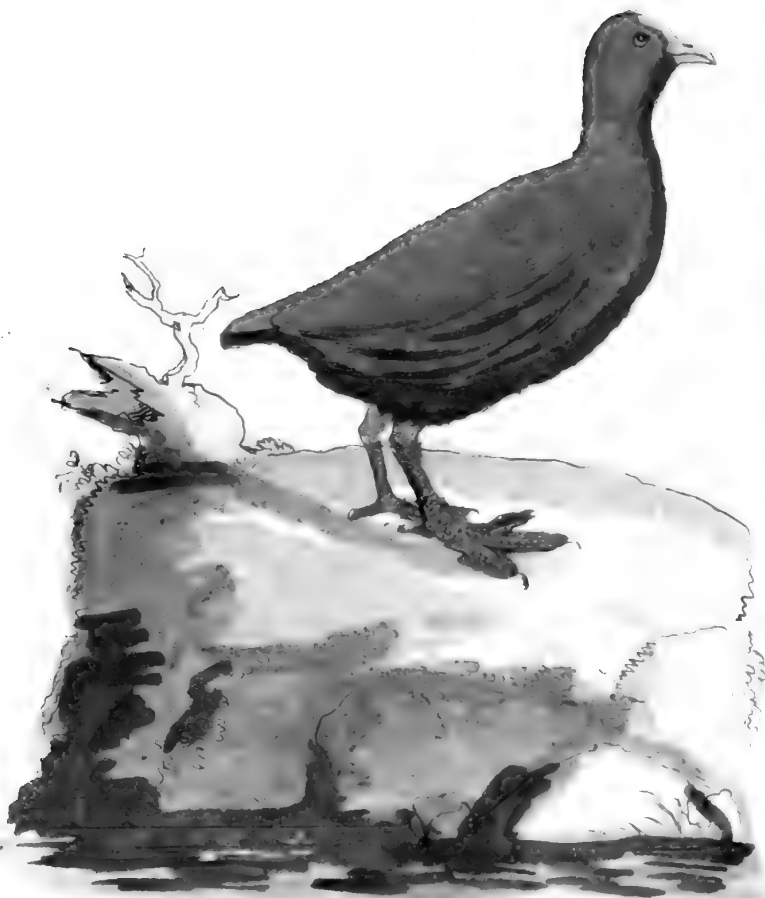
Though Oyster-catchers be very wild in flocks, yet they are easily tamed when taken young: they have been kept so a long time. In the day they frequented ponds and ditches, but they would return of their own accord at night, and roost with the ducks and the poultry.

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ORDER 1<sup>th</sup> *Gralla*.  
Genus 52 *Fulica*.



C O O T.

Published June 1<sup>st</sup> 1787 by J. Johnson St. Pauls Church Yard London



THE  
NATURAL HISTORY  
OF  
BIRDS.

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GENUS 52. FULICA.

THE COOT.

The beak is convex, short, and thick; the upper mandible has a callous or hard substance, which reaches up the forehead.

The lower mandible is gibbous near the point.

The nostrils are oblong and pervious.

The forehead bare.

Some birds of this genus have four toes on each foot, pinnated, or with scalloped membranes by the side of each toe; in others the toes are divided to their beginning.

**T**HOUGH the feet of the Coot be not entirely palmated, or webbed, there are scarcely any birds that swim better, or that stay longer on the water, except the Divers.

Coots are very seldom seen on land; if accidentally one should be found there, it seems so

much out of its element, and feels so awkward, that it will suffer itself to be caught by the hand.

They remain all day long upon pools, which they prefer to rivers; they only set their feet upon land to walk from one pool to another; and when the pools are distant, they fly there: their flight is very high, and generally in the night.

Coots, like many other water-fowl, see well with little light. The old ones mostly feed in the night. They remain concealed amongst the rushes the greater part of the day; and when they are disturbed they hide themselves, and even plunge into the mud, rather than fly away. It seems as though they began their flight with some difficulty, they are so unwilling to rise either from the land or from the water.

Young Coots are less fearful of danger, and less careful: they appear at all hours in the day: they sport, raising themselves upright one opposite to the other, leaping out of the water, and falling back again. They suffer the fowler to come near, yet they keep their eyes upon him, and dive the very instant they see the flash of the powder, so as often to escape the shot.

But later in the season, when the Coots have left the small pools, and are collected into considerable

able flocks on the larger pools, then the fowlers kill great numbers, and this is their method :

They get into several little boats, which they place in a line all the breadth of the pool. This little fleet moves forwards, and drives before it the flock of Coots, so as to crowd them into some little inlet.

The Coots, then pressed by fear and necessity, all take wing at once, and fly over the heads of the fowlers to get back into the pool. The fowlers fire their guns that instant, and great numbers are killed. Then they row back to where the remainder of the Coots are crowded together ; and what is very strange, neither the noise and the fire of the guns, nor the appearance of the boats, nor the death of their companions, make them then fly from the pool. They wait until the night, then they mostly leave the place where their flock has so much suffered : a few stragglers however may sometimes be seen the next day.

These indolent birds have many enemies : the Buzzards destroy many of their eggs, and carry away many of their young ; they are hunted by men and dogs, and destroyed by otters, as well as by kites and falcons. This must be the reason that they increase so little, for the Coot lays 18

or 20 eggs, and when the first are destroyed, oftentimes the mother will again lay 10 or 12 more. She makes her nest in a situation that is overflown, and covered with dead reeds. She chuses a tuft of them, upon these she heaps still more, and this mass is raised above the water; it is lined in the hollow part with dry grass and the tops of reeds, which makes a nest so large, that it may be seen from a distance. The female sits about 22 or 23 days, and so soon as the little ones are hatched, they spring out of the nest, and never return into it again. The mother does not brood them under her wings; they lie amongst the rushes all round her. She takes them soon to the water, and they swim and dive very well.

At this early age they are covered with a blackish smoke-coloured down. This is the time that birds of prey destroy such numbers of them; they often take away the mother and the young.

Old Coots, who have often lost their broods, grow wise; they make their nest along the shore, among the flags, where it is much better concealed: they keep their little ones in these close places, overgrown with tall plants. These are the broods that are saved, for so many of the others

others are destroyed, that a tenth part scarcely escapes from birds of prey.

Coots are found in every part of Europe, from Italy to Sweden; in Siberia, Persia, China, and most parts of Asia. They are found too in Jamaica and Carolina, and in other parts of North-America.

The Indians in the neighbourhood of Niagara dress their skins, and use them for pouches. Niagara is in North-America, and is perhaps the largest waterfall in the world.

The forehead of the common Coot is bare, as far as the crown, and covered with a bluish white skin, which becomes reddish in the breeding season. All the plumage is furnished with a thick down, covered with close but fine feathers, of a bluish black colour. Each toe is surrounded with a scalloped membrane, or skin; it runs and swims upon the water, and is found in Europe in marshy parts.

The food of Coots is small fish and water-insects; sometimes they eat the roots of the bull-rush, and feed their young ones with them.

Coots frequently make their nests among the rushes, with grass and reeds, to float upon the water, and to rise and fall with it.

The greater Coot has a white forehead, red circles, or garters above the knees, the feet pin-nated, and the body black. In every other respect it is like the common Coot, only that its body is larger.

M. Buffon had one of these in confinement; a blast of wind had blown it among some vines; it would not take any kind of food that was prepared for it, such as bread, cheese, or meat, either dressed or raw: it refused worms and little frogs, either dead or living; so bread steeped in water was forced into its bill.

It liked very much to stand in a pan full of water; it would continue there for hours; when it was out of the water, it always tried to hide itself. It was not ill-natured, but suffered itself to be taken, only slightly striking with the beak the hand that attempted to catch it, but so gently, as scarcely to make a mark upon the skin. It did not seem angry or impatient, nor did it try to escape: but perhaps this stupid stillness was caused by confinement, for it appeared both deaf and silent; it never uttered any cry; and whatever noise was made close to its ear, it seemed to take no notice of it.

There

There are several species of the *Fulica*.

The brown *Gallinule* is one species. The forehead is yellow, and it has a yellow circle or garter above the knee; the feet are divided to the beginning; the body is dusky, or olive brown.

This bird is found in France. M. Buffon kept one confined for eighteen days; it took no other food than water; it was kept in a little place, where the light was let in through two panes of glass in the door; every morning, as soon as it was light, it flew frequently against the glass; the rest of the time it endeavoured to hide itself as much as possible: it pecked with its bill when it was attempted to be taken in the hand, but the strokes were not violent. In this cruel prison it made no noise; indeed these birds are in general very silent, and some have thought that they are not able to make any noise, but this is not the case. In the neighbourhood of Venice they are taken with hawks: several men wade among the marshes, and drive them from the bushes and the places where they lurk; whilst other persons are watching with hawks, and so soon as the *Gallinule* takes wing, they let these hawks fly after them.

The common *Gallinule*'s forehead is yellow; it has red circles or garters above the knees; the

toes are single, or without webs, though they are broad and flat; the legs are of a yellowish green; the beak is yellow, at the base reddish; the body black; it has white feathers behind on each side, which it often shews when it is on the water. The forehead of the common Gallinule is bare of feathers, and covered with a thick membrane: when it flies its legs hang down behind. It frequents the water, but does not swim very much, unless it be to go from one bank to another. The greatest part of the day it is hid under the roots of alders or willows; it is only in the evening that it is seen upon the water; it frequents marshes less than running streams and pools; it makes a large nest of reeds and rushes interwoven. The female bird leaves the nest every evening, but first covers the eggs with blades of reeds and plants. The moment the young are hatched they run and follow their mother to the water: the mother, for this reason perhaps, always builds her nest near the water-edge. She takes very great care of her young the little time they have occasion for her help; for they are soon capable of providing for themselves. The parent then lays again, and sometimes hatches three times in a year. They feed on small fish and water plants.

In





ORDER 1<sup>th</sup> Grallæ.  
Genus 52 Fulica.



PURPLE WATER HEN.

Published June 1767 by J. J. Johnson S. Pauls Church Yard London.

In Dusky Bay, in New Zealand, Gallinules were so tame that they stood still, and looked at the sailors, and suffered them to come near enough to kill them with sticks. New Zealand is a newly-discovered country, and the poor birds there do not yet know how very wanton and cruel men frequently are.

The purple Gallinule's forehead is bare and red; it has many circles or garters; its feet are divided; the body is greenish, beneath of a violet colour.

The purple Gallinule can live both upon land and in water; he eats fruit, and meat, and fish, and is easily tamed; his carriage is noble, his form beautiful, his plumage brilliant, that is, shining; the colours are purple glossed with blue, and green glossed with the colour of the emerald.

Like the cock he scratches the ground, yet he uses one of his feet like a hand, to carry his food to his mouth. He has learned this habit because it is convenient to him, for his neck is short and his legs are long: this must make it painful to him to pick up any thing from the ground with his beak.

The Romans were so much pleased with the beauty of this bird, that they never fed upon it, but brought it from Lybia, a part of Africa, now called Barca, and part of Barbary, to keep it in

their temples and palaces, and they allowed it to enjoy its liberty.

The purple Gallinule is very gentle and innocent, at the same time timid and affectionate. It likes to be alone, and endeavours to conceal itself whilst it eats; at the approach of any person it cries through fear; its voice at first is weak, then shrill, and finishes with three dull notes which seem stifled. When pleased his cries are less loud and softer; he prefers fruit and roots, and particularly endive; but he eats fish with still more pleasure: he often dips his food in water, he takes it in his foot, moves it about between his toes, and eats it by breaking off little pieces one after another.

His blue and downy plumage is still more beautiful from its glossiness; his long legs, the spot on the crown of his head, and the root of his bill, are of a beautiful red; the tuft of white feathers under his tail soften the splendor of its elegant blue.

The purple Gallinule is found chiefly in Africa, and near the Caspian Sea, and is used to warm situations; yet it might probably easily be tamed and bred in England.

A gentleman in France had a pair in an aviary; they made a nest, both the male and female assisted;

sifted; it was built upon a wall above the ground with twigs and straw; the female laid six eggs, but as she did not sit very close, they were put under a common hen, but were not hatched.

Linnæus places the Coot and the Gallinule under the Genus *Fulica*. There are other natural historians who divide them into two genera, that is, families; and the difference between them is this, in the Coot the feet are pinnated, or each toe is surrounded by a web; in the Gallinule, the toes are divided to the beginning.

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#### GENUS 53. P A R R A.

The beak is slender, and a little obtuse or blunt.

The nostrils are oval, and placed near the middle of the beak.

The forehead is carunculated, that is, warty.

The wings are armed on the front with one or more sharp spurs.

**T**HERE are several species of the Parra: one that is found in Senegal, and that is placed by some writers among the *Tringa* Genus, has red legs; its claws are of a moderate length; the warty skin on its forehead, or at the base of the

the beak, and the beak, are of a clay colour; the forehead is white; the throat and quill feathers, and the second feathers are white at the tip; the tail half way from the base is of a dingy white, the rest black, with pale reddish tips. This Parra of Senegal, called the Senegal Sandpiper, has a little horny black spur on the joint of each of his wings.

The negroes call these birds Net Net; the French call them Screamers. Mr. Adanson says, the moment they see a man, they flutter round him, and scream as loud as they can; this gives an alarm to all the birds that are within hearing, and they immediately fly away; for this reason fowlers very much dislike the Screamer.

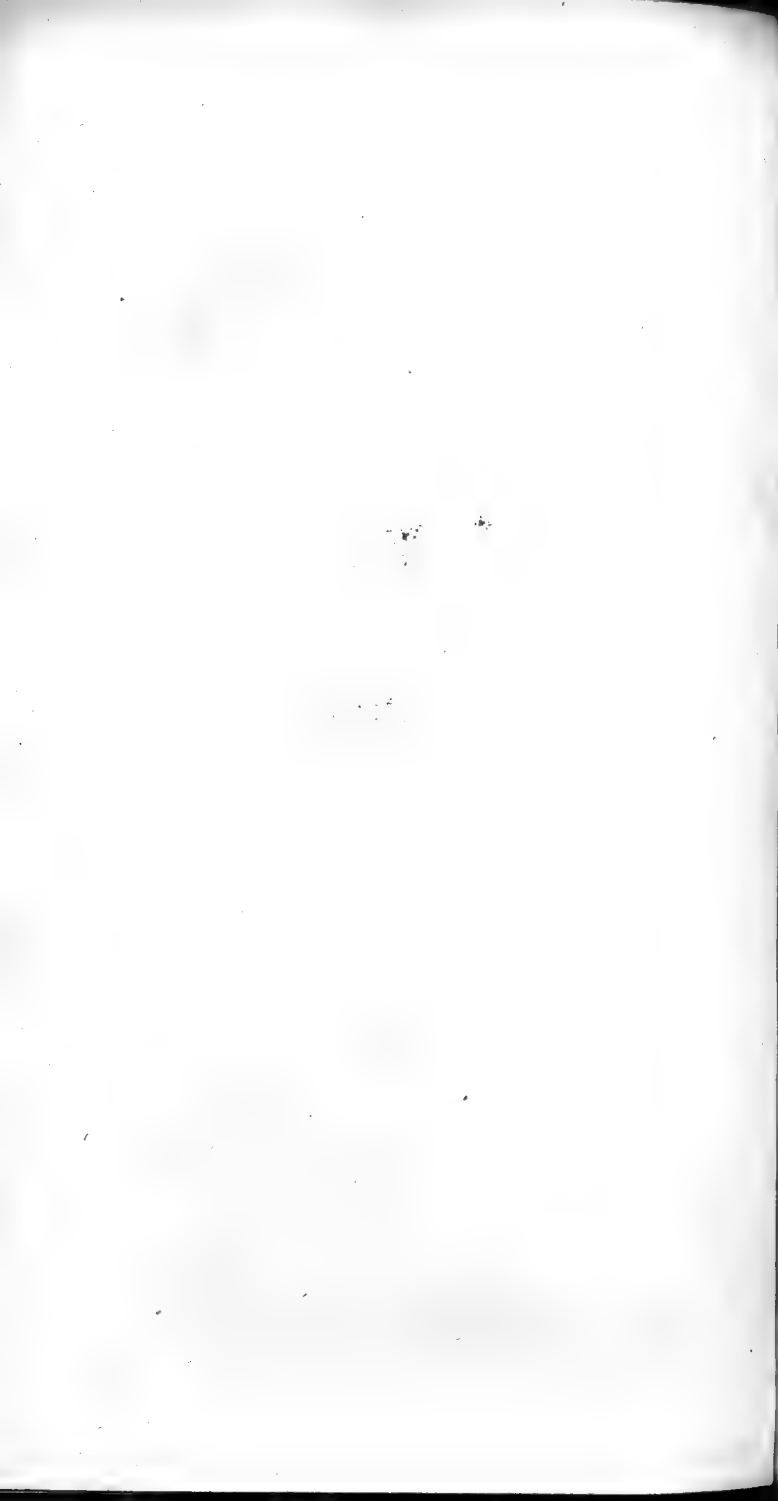
The Jacana of Brazil, or the Chestnut Jacana, is another species of the Parra; he has spurs on his wings, and a kind of flap of skin on the fore part of his head, and one on each side of the base of the beak. His toes and nails are extremely long; the toe behind is as long as the middle toe before; his nails are strait, round, and sharp, like needles: for this reason, perhaps, the bird has by some been called the Surgeon. This species is common in Brazil and other parts of South America: though its legs be long, its body is not so large as a pigeon's; it frequents marshy places,  
the

ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> Grallae.  
Genus 53. *Parra*.



SPUR WINGED WATER HEN or JACANA.

Published June 1727 by Jos. Johnson St. Pauls Church Yard London.





the sides of ponds and streams, and wades quite up to the thighs in water.

The Jacanas of Brazil generally go in pairs, and when any accident separates them, they call to one another. They are very wild; a fowler cannot come near them but by using some contrivance, by covering himself with leaves, or concealing himself behind bushes or reeds.

They fly very swiftly, but not very high; their cry is sharp and shrill, and may be heard at a distance. Poultry are sometimes terrified at it; perhaps they mistake it for the cry of a bird of prey; but this is far from the case, for though Jacanas be provided with arms, they are of a gentle disposition, and only use them in their own defence. They are seen in the greatest numbers in rainy seasons: they are mostly in pairs; but sometimes appear in flocks of twenty or thirty. They feed on small fish, and on aquatic or water insects, and they are esteemed good food. They hide themselves among the rushes.

The faithful Jacana has very long toes; its feet are yellowish, and it has a crest of blackish feathers about three inches long, which hang down behind its head. Its body is the size of that of a cock's, and eighteen inches high from the ground; the wings and tail are blackish, clouded with grey;  
the

the stomach less black ; the beak is conic, a little bent, and of a dingy white colour ; the upper mandible is like that of a cock ; the nostrils are oblong, open, and pervious ; a red membrane, or skin, extends on each side, from the base of the beak to the temples. In the middle of this are placed the eyes ; the irides, or the circles round the pupil, are brown. The neck is covered with a short and thick black down, but not with feathers ; on the lower part of the head, on the temples, and below the beak, it is white, for about the breadth of one inch ; the forehead and back part of the head are covered with real feathers of the same colour as the body, but less dark. The crest consists of about twelve feathers, about three inches in length, blackish ; and they grow very straight out from the place from whence they spring, but they lean towards the body ; they rise out of the lower part of the head, where the down ends. The thighs are half bare and thick ; the knees are very thick and swelling, like a knot ; the feet have four toes, divided, and of the same colour ; the toes are thick, and so very long, as to interfere, that is, to entangle with one another in walking. The tail is short.

This Jacana inhabits rivers, lakes, and marshy situations, near the river Cinu, about thirty leagues,

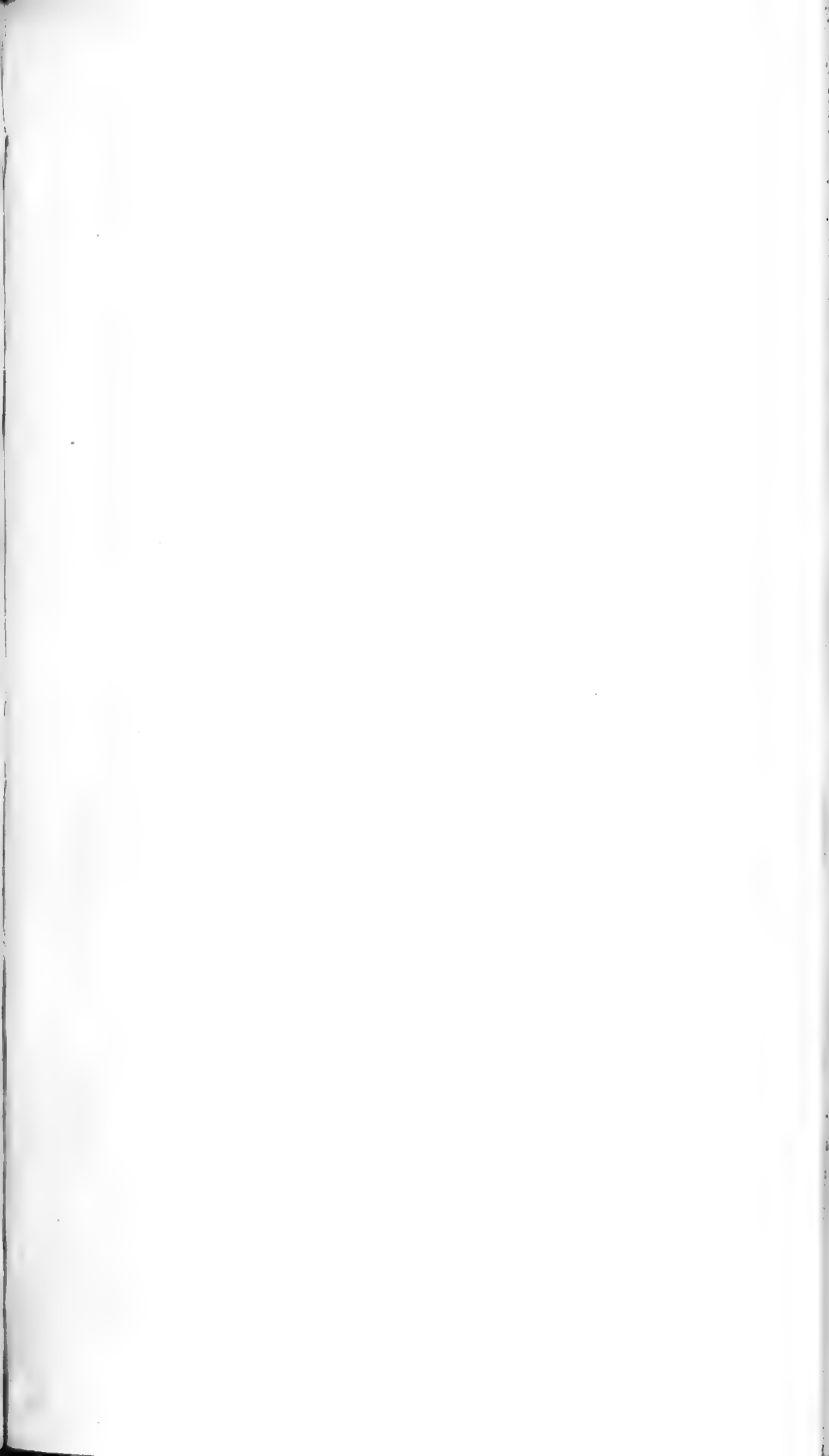
leagues, or ninety miles, from Carthagena, in Terra Firma, in South America: it eats vegetables; its carriage, that is, its walk, is slow and solemn; it flies with great ease and very swiftly; it cannot run, but with the assistance of its wings. If the skin be touched by the hand, although there be a thick down under the feathers, a great crackling is perceived. This thick down makes the body so light, that the Jacana can swim perfectly well, though its toes be of so extraordinary a length and quite divided: with these it can walk in deep pools, where there are many weeds. In each wing it has two or three thick, hard, and sharp spurs, about half an inch in length: they are concealed, unless it be when its wings, which are very long and strong, are spread to their utmost extent, and it is about to attack an enemy. This Jacana kills his enemies by striking them very violently with his wings. He has a strong aversion to rapacious birds, that is, birds of prey; he attacks them without provocation; he often flies to meet them, and drives away a species of vulture that is frequent in South America.

The natives, who keep poultry in great numbers, have generally one of these Jacanas tame. He constantly attends the flock committed to his care; although he can fly, he never deserts them,  
but

is in vain to seek him ; before the fowler can come he has run to the distance of 100 yards. He makes amends for the slowness of his flying, by the swiftness with which he runs : for he uses his legs more than his wings. As he is covered by the grass whilst he lives in the meadows, he seldom rises off the ground ; but when the time of his passage is come, (for he is a bird of passage) he seems to be supplied with unexpected strength. He takes his flight in the night, and going with the wind, attempts the passage of the Mediterranean Sea from some of the southern provinces of France.

These Gallinules, at one season of the year, are found in Tartary ; and the Tartars perceiving how heavily they fly, imagine that they go from one country to another by the assistance of the Cranes, and that each Crane takes a Gallinule on its back. This is a very strange and childish fancy.

They go into countries north of France to build their nests, partly for food, and partly because they prefer cool situations ; for although they eat seeds, particularly broom seed, clover seed, &c. and though they may be fattened in confinement upon millet seed and other grain, yet insects, snails, and grubs, are their favourite food,



ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> Grallæ.  
Genus 54 Rallus.



RAIL.

food, and necessary for their young. Now these can only be found in moist situations; when Gallinules are grown up, corn and other grain seem to agree with them very well, they are fattened with them, and are very delicate food. They are sometimes decoyed to the net like the Quail, by imitating their cry crake, crake, either by sawing with a knife upon a bone that is notched, or by means of a comb covered with paper.

These birds are common in England; in the summer they are frequent in Ireland, in the Hebrides, and the Orkneys. They are always found in those places that are frequented by Quails: when they first arrive in England they are lean, and weigh less than six ounces; but before they go away they weigh eight ounces, and the fat comes through their skin like oil when they are killed.

The Water Rail's wings are grey, with dusky spots; the sides of the body are barred with black and white; the beak on the under part is reddish, the feet are greenish, the feathers very soft, and the irides are red.

The Water Rail runs by the side of standing waters as fast as the Land Rail runs along the grass; he is as unwilling to leave the ground, and to take to his wings; he gives the fowler  
the

the same trouble, and is pursued by the dogs with the same eagerness, and he flies only when the danger is very great. He is found during the greatest part of Winter near springs that are not frozen; yet he has a season for migrating, like the Land Rails, and in Spring and Autumn has been seen passing over the island of Malta.

A French gentleman endeavoured to bring some up tame: they were very well for a short time, but about a fortnight after they were taken, their long legs became paralytic, that is, they lost the use of them; they could only drag themselves along upon their knees, and soon after died.

This species is common in England; it frequents the edges of ponds and rivulets that are well furnished with cover; whilst it flies its legs hang down; it frequently takes to the water, and swims tolerably well; and often runs on the surface, if there be weeds to bear it up.

The spotted Gallinule, or little Water Rail's forehead, and under part of its neck, is ash-colour; the two intermediate tail-feathers are spotted with white; the beak and feet are a little olive-coloured.

It makes its appearance in the same seasons as the common Water Rail, frequents pools and marshes, and makes its nest among the reeds; the



nest is in the form of a boat, and made of rushes that are interwoven; one end is moored or fastened to the stalk of a reed, so that this little floating cradle may rise and fall with the water, and yet not be carried away. The female lays seven or eight eggs; the little ones, when hatched, are entirely black. The parent's care does not last long, for so soon as they are hatched, they run, swim, and dive, and soon separate; each goes to live alone.

The little Water Rail, like the other Rails, is roused with so much difficulty by the dogs, that the fowler may sometimes almost catch it in his hand, or beat it down with a stick: if it finds a bush in its flight, it mounts upon it; and from this situation sees the dogs pass it, and lose the scent. It plunges into the water, and even dives to escape an enemy.

The Soree Gallinule has black feathers near the base of its beak, the breast is lead-colour, the beak yellow, and legs greenish. It inhabits North America. The Soree Gallinules become so fat in Autumn, that they cannot escape from the Indians, who take great numbers by running them down. They are very delicate food, and as much esteemed in Virginia, as the rice birds are in Carolina, or Ortolans in England. They  
are

are only found in Virginia, about six weeks from the latter end of September; at that time they frequent the marshes in great numbers: they feed on the wild oats; when they first come they are very lean, but they soon become so fat as not to be able to fly. In this state they sit upon the reeds; the Indians go out in canoes, and kill them with their paddles.

The inhabitants of Virginia are so fond of these birds, that they eat them at breakfast, dinner, and supper.

There is in Dusky Bay, in New Zealand, a Rail called the Troglodyte Rail; it is very much like our common fowl, it scratches the ground like them, and its wings are so short, that it cannot well fly. It never takes the water, but is found on the sea-beach and the skirts of woods, where it picks up worms.

These Rails are often found at the roots of trees; they run into holes and bushes to hide themselves; they make a noise a little before rain, and are so tame, that they suffer themselves to be beaten down with a stick.

In South America, at Guiana, and Cayenne, there is a Rail called the Kiolo, from the noise it makes. In the day the Kiolos are scattered among the bushes, but in the evening, at sun-set, they



ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> Grallæ.  
Genus 55 Psophia.



AGAMI.

Published June 1. 1787 by Jos. Johnson S. Pauls Church Yard London.

they may be heard calling one another together before they go to roost. They make their nests near the ground, between the forks of shrubs; of a reddish plant, and with a covering on the top, which keeps out the rain.

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GENUS 55. PSOPHIA.

THE AGAMI, OR TRUMPETER.

The bill is cylindrically conic, convex, rather pointed, and the upper mandible is the longest.

The nostrils are oval and wide, sunk and pervious.

It has four toes on each foot, divided, three before and one behind; the hind toe small, with a round protuberance (that is, a knob) beneath, which is at a little distance from the ground.

**T**HE Agami inhabits dry mountains, and those forests that are on high situations; it is seldom seen in marshes, or near the edge of the water.

The Agami is about twenty-two or twenty-three inches long; its beak is like that of the common cock; the tail is short, about three inches and a quarter long; the legs are about five inches high, and covered around with little

scales, and the scales reach two inches above the knees, where there are no feathers; the head, the throat, and upper part of the neck, are covered with a short down, very close, and soft to the touch.

The Agami is remarkable for a very odd noise, which does not seem to come from the beak: indeed he first makes a noise from his bill, like the word *scherck*, two or three times repeated; this is followed by a strange noise from within, not much unlike the cooing of a pigeon, or as if one said *tou*, six or seven times, with the mouth shut, drawing out the last *tou* for some time, and lowering the note. It is a little like the noise which the Dutch bakers make in a glass, to tell their customers that they are taking their bread out of the oven.

But there is reason to suppose, that this noise does come from the beak very slightly opened; though there are instances in birds of noises that come from within, and are heard through the skin, whilst the beak is shut, as the cooing of Doves and the cry of the Hocco.

When they are properly attended to, in a tame state, they keep themselves very neat: they often smooth the feathers of their wings and of their bodies with their beaks. Sometimes, when they fight,

fight, they leap one against the other; their motions and the beating of their wings are violent.

Their common food is grain, but they are fond of fish, of meat, and of bread.

The Agami, when tamed, is very grateful and fond; he knows his master or benefactor, that is, the person that is kind to him.

Mr. Vosmaer, the gentleman who gives this account, says, that he has found this himself: he brought up one very young; in the morning, when he opened the cage, this affectionate bird sprang towards him, with its wings expanded, that is, spread, making that strange kind of noise, both from its bill, and, as it were, from within, as if that were its manner of bidding him good morrow. He received his master in the same affectionate manner when he returned home, after being absent. When he saw his master at a distance, he immediately ran to him, although he was in a boat; and the moment the gentleman landed, the Agami behaved just in the same manner; but it was only to this gentleman, and not to any body else.

In its natural state, the Agami inhabits the large forests in the warmer climates of America. He does not approach exposed and open situations,

still less places that are inhabited. In general Agamis are in flocks; they walk and run, and are very unwilling to fly: indeed they run very swiftly, but their flight is slow and heavy, for they never rise but a few feet above the ground, in order to rest upon low branches.

When they are surprized, they run much more frequently than they fly; and they make a shrill cry, like a Turkey.

They scratch the earth at the foot of large trees, to lay their eggs there; for they make no nest: they lay from ten to sixteen eggs.

The young Agamis preserve their down, or rather their first pen feathers, longer than chickens, or partridges. These feathers are sometimes two inches long; and at that time the Agamis look like beasts, covered with hair, rather than birds.

The young Agamis are not only easily tamed, but they are as fond of those who take care of them as the dog. They give the strongest proofs of their affection, for an Agami that is kept in the house comes to meet his master, caresses, follows him, or goes before him; and shews every mark of joy when he goes with him, or sees him again, after a short absence.

When



When he takes a dislike to any person, he pecks at his legs, and follows him to some distance, always shewing the same marks of displeasure: he obeys his master, and comes to those who call him: he likes to be taken notice of, and offers his head or his neck to be stroked, and when he is used to these attentions, he expects them, and is troublesome. He attends at table without being called; before he seems to wish for any thing to eat, he drives away the cats and the dogs, and suffers no other favourite to be in the room; and he is so bold and courageous that he never runs away. Dogs of a common size generally yield to him at last, though they may contend for some time: he avoids the bite of the dog by rising in the air, and immediately alights upon his enemy, and endeavours to peck his eyes: when once he has got the better, he is so furious as to destroy the dog unless they be parted.

The Agami, in his fondness to men, resembles the dog; and it is said, that he learns so easily, that he might be taught to take care of a flock of sheep. He seems too to be very jealous, and often pecks the negroes, or those servants, who at meal times go near his master.

Agamis are not bad food when they are young; and a part of their plumage, the feathers of the

neck and breast, which are of a most beautiful glossy blue, are preserved for ornament.

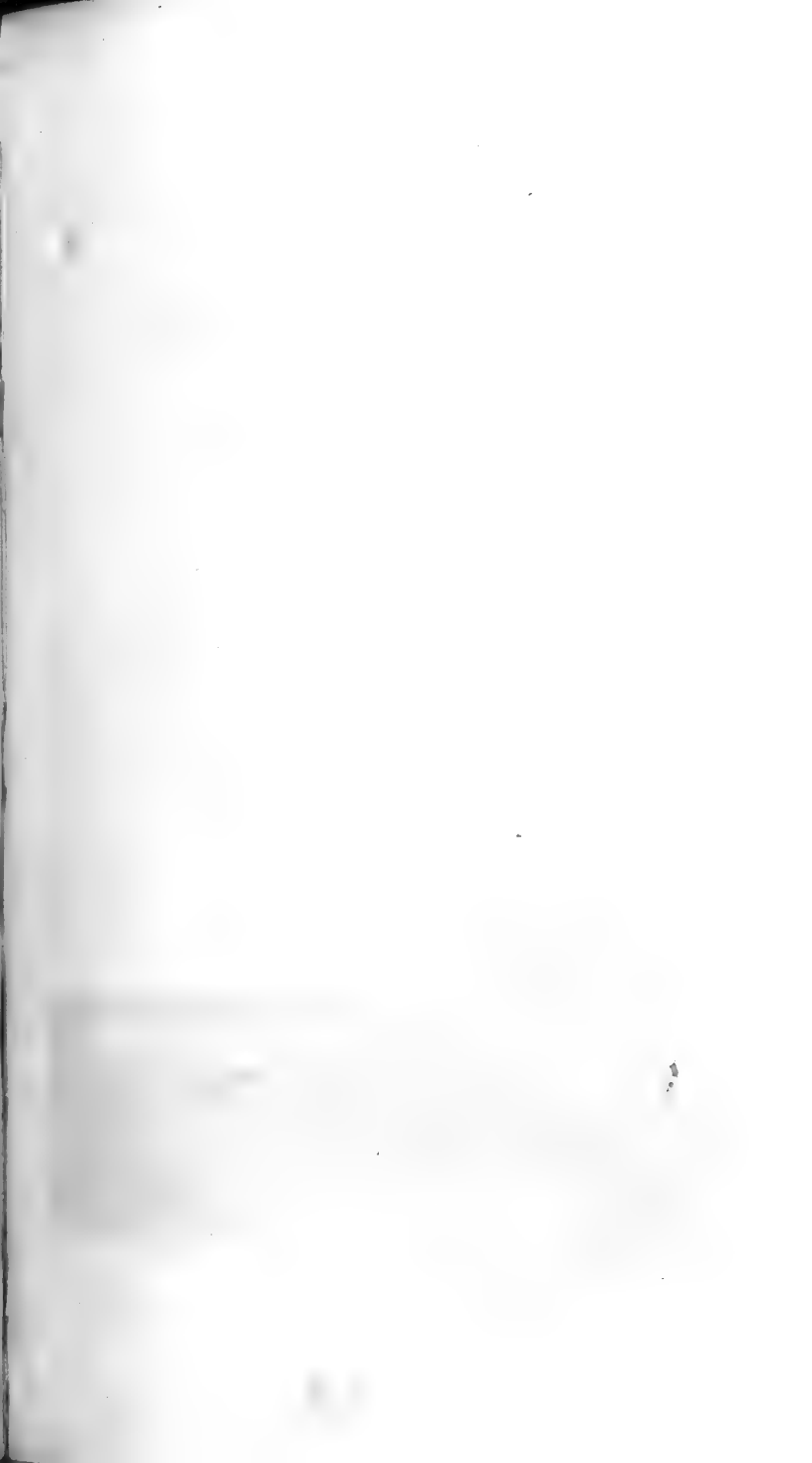
There are many of the Agamis in the streets of Cayenne, in South America; they wander out of the town, and return again to their master's house. They are not afraid of birds of prey, and always master the poultry.

They will feed like Chickens upon grain, but they prefer worms and meat.

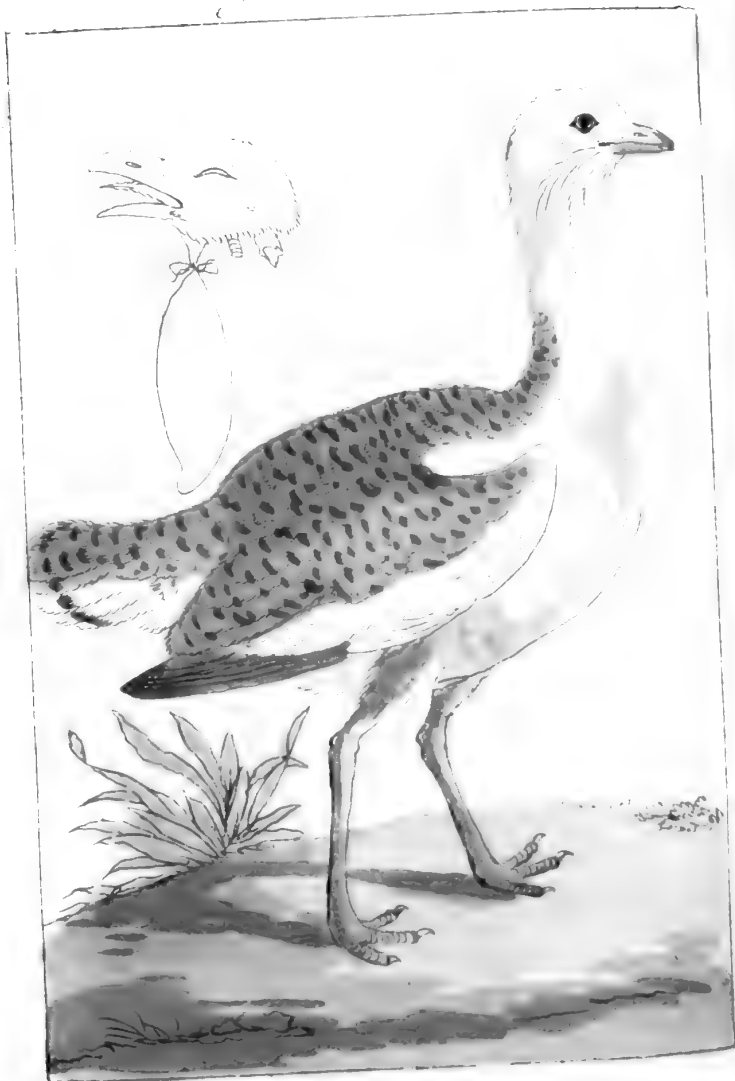
Almost every one of these birds takes a fancy to follow some person or other in the streets, or out of the town; and sometimes those whom they have never seen before: it is in vain for the person to attempt to hide himself, or go into a house, the Agami waits for him, sometimes more than three hours, and still continues to follow.

Mr. de la Borde says, that he has attempted to run away from an Agami, but the Agami ran still faster, and got before him; he stopped when the Gentleman stopped. Mr. de la Borde mentions, that he knew one who followed all the strangers who came to its master's house: when they went into the garden he went with them, walked when they walked, and when they stopped he stood still.

It inhabits several parts of South America, Brazil, Guiana, Surinam, and Amazonia.



ORDER 4  
*Genus 50 Clis.*



GREAT BUSTARD.

GENUS 56.

O T I S.

## THE B U S T A R D.

The upper mandible of the beak is a little convex.

The nostrils are oval and open.

The tongue bifid or divided (Linnæus says), but others say it is sloping on each side near to the end, and pointed.

Feet formed for running, with only three toes.

**T**HE Great Bustard.—The head and throat of the male are crested with feathers. The outer or first quill feathers are black; the greater part of the secondary feathers, or those that grow on the second joint of the wing are white; and it has twenty feathers in its tail, the two middle feathers are different from the rest; its beak resembles the Turkey's; its down is of a rose colour, and the lower part of the leg is naked.

Some of the Bustard's feathers are downy at the base and near the end, and the middle part of the feather is more firm. The heel and lower part of the leg are covered with scales; the nails are convex both above and below; under the feet there is a callous knob, which answers the purpose of a heel.

Just below the tongue, in the male, is a pouch that can contain seven pints of water, some say seven quarts.

The Bustard fills this, and keeps it in store, to use as he has occasion; sometimes perhaps for his young, for Bustards frequent dry situations. Sometimes too they spirt out this water upon Hawks, when they are attacked by them.

The Bustards feed upon grass, grain, and all sorts of seeds, upon cabbage leaves, and the leaves of various plants, and upon worms and slugs.

In the winter, when the ground is covered with snow, they eat the bark of trees, and they frequently swallow gravel or small stones, as Ostriches and Poultry often do.

The Bustards build no nest, they only dig a little hole in the ground, and lay two eggs: they sit thirty days. It is said, when they suspect that their nest is discovered, they carry away the eggs under their wings, but this is not very likely. They generally lay their eggs among corn, that the young may be near their food; and they prefer laying among oats, because oats do not grow so high as to prevent their seeing to some distance all round them.

The

The female sometimes leaves her eggs in search of food: it is said, that if any person in her absence should breathe upon the eggs, she immediately forsakes them.

Bustards, though very large, are very fearful; they are especially afraid of dogs: and this cowardice is so great, that if they are slightly hurt, they die of fear: when they are angry, they swell out a piece of loose skin which is under their neck.

When the Bustard is pursued, it runs very fast and flaps its wings, and goes several miles in this manner without stopping: but as it rises from the ground with great difficulty, and cannot perch upon trees, (perhaps for want of a back toe) it is sometimes caught by greyhounds and other dogs.

Bustards are often taken by means of Hawks, and birds of prey, or caught in nets. They are said to be so fond of horses, that by means of a horse they may be brought almost any where, or by means of a man covered with a horse's skin.

Elieen says, that in the kingdom of Pontus, which is now in Turkey in Asia, the foxes deceive the Bustards, by lying close to the ground and raising their tails, and moving them like the

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neck of a bird; that the Bustards mistake them for birds of their own kind, and go towards them, and so are caught.

The foxes in Pontus must be very cunning, or the Bustards very silly; or, what is more likely, the person who told this story must have been very credulous; that is to say, disposed to believe what is very unlikely to be true.

Sometimes Bustards go in flocks of forty or fifty, and do a great deal of mischief in the turnip fields.

They are found in Europe, Asia, and Africa, but not in America.

A Gentleman's Servant in France, one morning, when the country was covered with snow, found thirty Bustards half frozen.

The Bustard is very nice food. The fat is said to make a very useful ointment. The quills are used for writing, like the quills of Swans and Geese, and fishermen use them for floats to their fishing-lines: they fancy that the fish imagine the little black spots, upon the quills, to be so many flies, which brings them in numbers about the line.

There is a Bustard found in Arabia, called the Arabian Bustard, about the size of the Great Bustard.

Bustard. The back part of the head is crested and black.

The Lesser Bustard is found in several parts of Europe, but particularly in France. The head and throat have no tufts of feathers, even in the male; the neck is black, with two white bands. It is only about the size of a Pheasant. The male Bustards are very quarrelsome with one another, and they often make a noise in the night, which is heard to a great distance.

The female lays in the month of June from three to five eggs; they are of a glossy green colour. As soon as the young are hatched they follow their mother, as chickens follow a hen; and on the least alarm they squat close to the ground. They feed on insects, vegetables, and grain.

They are very cautious and suspicious, for they are not easily taken in traps. Upon the least alarm they rise, and fly very heavily for about three hundred yards, very near the ground: then, as soon as they alight, they run so fast, that a man can scarcely overtake them.

## GENUS 57. STRUTHIO.

## THE OSTRICH.

The beak is rather conic, depressed like a duck's, and rounded at the end.

The nostrils are oval.

The wings small in proportion to the body, and not fit for flying.

The feet formed for running, with only two toes to each, both placed forwards.

**T**HE Black, or Camel Ostrich, has two toes: its body is the largest of any bird's that is known, and about seven feet high. The Ostrich is not able to fly; its feathers are loose in their webbs, soft and downy.

The upper part of the head is naked, the eyelids above and below are fringed, its breast is callous, (that is, the skin there is hard,) and there are two spurs on each wing. The feathers are oftentimes worn by soldiers in their caps, and by ladies in their hats.

The tail is white, the quill feathers are white, and the thighs and the sides under the wings are bare of feathers.

The feathers which grow out of the Ostrich's wings are all single, and their webs are long,  
separate

ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> - Grallæ.  
Genus 57 Struthio.



OSTRICH.



separate from one another, soft and downy, and cannot be embodied together (that is joined) so as to strike the air with any advantage, which is the chief use of wings. Indeed all the feathers of the Ostrich are of the same kind. The upper eye-lid is moveable.

The time of laying their eggs depends upon the climate which they inhabit: in the northern parts of Africa it is about the beginning of July, and in the southern parts of Africa about the latter end of December.

The climate too directs them very much in the hatching their eggs. In the torrid zone (which is the hottest part of the world) they lay their eggs in a heap of sand, which they collect together with their feet; and there they scarcely sit upon them in the night, the heat of the sun is sufficient to hatch them, and even that is scarcely necessary, for some have been known to hatch that were never sat upon, or exposed to the rays of the sun.

But though Ostriches do not sit at all, or but very little upon their eggs, they by no means forsake them; for they watch them with great attention, and seldom lose sight of the place where they are laid.

It

It has been said, that their affection for their eggs was so great, that one method of taking them was to plant stakes, sharpened at the point, at a proper height from the ground near the nest; and that the Ostrich, in its haste to return to the eggs, would frequently entangle itself among them.

Kolben says, that they sit upon their eggs like other birds, and that the cock and the hen take it by turns.

Some Ostriches, that were kept in the menagerie at Versailles, in France, laid several eggs; but though some were exposed to the sun, and others kept warm by means of fire, none of them produced any young ones.

It is said, that young Ostriches can run as soon as they are hatched, and take care of themselves; so that in very hot climates, where their food is in great plenty, their parents leave them so soon as they leave the shell: but at the Cape of Good Hope, where the climate is less hot, the mother continues her care over the young so long as it is necessary.

The first year young Ostriches are of a grey ash colour, and entirely covered with feathers; but these feathers do not long continue, and the head, the upper part of the neck, and the sides  
under



under the wings, remain afterwards bare of feathers; on the other parts of the body, the feathers are white and black by turns, and some are grey. The feathers on the lower part of the neck are the shortest; they grow longer on the stomach and on the back; but the longest of all are in the tail and the wings, and they are the most valued.

Most other birds are apt to have insects upon their bodies, but none have been found on the Ostrich.

Some people have thought that Ostriches could digest stones and iron, and iron even when it was red hot; but this must be a mistake: it is very true that they will swallow stones, and glass, and iron, partly, perhaps, because they may not smell very well, and partly to enable them to digest their other food, as Poultry swallow small stones for that purpose.

The Ostrich is a bird peculiar to Africa, to the neighbouring islands, and to those parts of Asia that are near Africa.

Ostriches prefer lonely situations where it seldom rains. The Arabians say that they never drink. They sometimes go in large flocks, and at a distance look like squadrons of horse; and in these desert places they often alarm the caravans.

There

There are some people in Africa who might be called Ostrich eaters, for they live almost entirely upon Ostriches.

Heliogabalus, a Roman Emperor, had the brains of 600 Ostriches served up in one entertainment. The inhabitants of Lybia and Numidia, that is to say, of some parts of Barbary, bring up Ostriches tame. They sell their feathers and feed upon their flesh.

It is said, that one Ostrich's egg is sufficient for one meal for eight men: with the shell, cups are frequently made, which in time grow hard, and are very much like ivory.

When the Arabians have killed an Ostrich they cut his throat, and tie a string very tightly round his neck just below the hole; and then several taking hold of it they shake it about, just as they would shake about a bottle in order to wash it.

Afterwards they untie the string, and a considerable quantity of a thick liquid comes out of the hole made in the throat; it is about the consistency of oil that is coagulated, that is beginning to freeze. This is a mixture of the blood and of the fat of the Ostrich, and the Arabians are very fond of it.

The Æthiopians skin Ostriches, and sell their skins to the Merchants of Alexandria. The leather

ther of these skins is very thick. The Arabians formerly made of them upper coats without sleeves, which served the purpose of armour.

The feathers are now much valued: the Janizaries, who are the best soldiers in Turkey, when they have performed any brave actions, are allowed to wear them in their turbans.

Those feathers that are taken from the Ostrich while he is alive are the most valuable; the others are dry, light, and liable to be spoilt by the worms.

Ostriches are easily tamed: the inhabitants of Dara and of Lybia, that is of some parts of Barbary, have great flocks, and from them they take the feathers.

Some Ostriches have been not only tamed, but taught to carry like a horse. Mr. Moore, an Englishman, saw a man riding in Africa upon an Ostrich. Mr. Adamson saw two at the factory of Podor, upon the river Niger, (a factory is a place of trade :) two little Negroes got upon the largest; the Ostrich immediately ran very fast all round the village. Mr. Adamson afterwards placed a grown up Negro upon the smallest Ostrich and two upon the larger; they first ran gently, and when they were a little roused, they seemed scarcely to touch the ground: they ran so swiftly that

ORDER 4<sup>th</sup> *Grallæ.*  
Genus 57 *Struthio.*



CASSOWARY.

In the same manner the savages in America disguise themselves like roebucks to catch roebucks.

The Ostrich can strike with its feet, and kick a dog to the ground. Some have said, that it can use its feet to throw stones; but this is not very likely, nor is it mentioned by any late observers.

The legs of the Ostrich are covered before with large scales, the end of the foot is cloven, and has two large toes of unequal sizes.

In the Scriptures the Jews are forbidden to eat its flesh, and it is particularly mentioned in the Book of Job.

The Cassowary has three toes; it has an helmet or horn on the top of its head, and on the middle of the neck two pendent wattles, that is, two pieces of warty naked skin, hanging down.

The wings are small, without feathers, and useless for flying.

The thighs are bare of feathers above the knees.

The Cassowary is not so large as the Ostrich, yet appears in proportion more bulky; for its legs and neck are much shorter, and yet very thick.

One

One of the most remarkable parts in this bird is its helmet or horn ; it goes from the base of its beak to the top or middle of its head ; it is black before and yellow every where else.

The head and upper part of the neck are covered with a wrinkled skin, thinly beset with hairs, and tinged with blue, with red, and with purple.

About the middle of the fore part of the neck, where the larger feathers begin, are two fleshy membranes, rounded at the ends, and of a red and blue colour.

The wings are shorter than the wings of an Ostrich, and without feathers, but they consist of five bare shafts, like the quills of a Porcupine.

The body is covered with brownish black, loose webbed feathers ; and generally two of them grow from one shaft. The bird has no tail, but the feathers that grow out from the bottom of the back are fourteen inches long, and hang downwards. On the breast there is a bare callous part, that is, a naked hard skin, on which the Cassowary rests its body when it lies down.

The Dutch say, that the Cassowary kicks backwards like a horse ; others that it rushes forwards, striking down and trampling upon the person who comes against it.

It

It seems very greedy, and swallows its food whole; it soon parts from what it has taken; and apples and eggs have been known to come from it as whole as when they were first swallowed.

Sometimes when it swallows them a second time they are then digested.

The Cassowary's eggs are of a grey ash colour, rather greenish, and spotted with green.

Cassowaries are found in the eastern and southern parts of Asia.

The Cassowary grunts like a hog, does not bruise its food with its beak, and will swallow stones and pieces of metal like the Ostrich.

Another species of the Struthio has three toes; the hind toe is round, and without a claw. It is found in South America, and feeds on fruit and on flesh.

The body is grey; it has no tail feathers, the feathers on the lower part of the back bend downwards and cover the tail. The toes are divided, and instead of a toe behind it has a knob.

It is not quite so large as an Ostrich, but it is the largest bird in America, for it is six feet high.

Its body is almost round like a globe. Its wings are very short, and useless for flying: from  
its

its having no back toe, but only a knob instead, it can hardly support itself on slippery ground; yet it can run very fast, and a dog can scarcely catch it.

It has been said, that it is the male bird in this species that sits: that he gets together several females, and that as soon as they have laid their eggs in one nest, that he drives them away and sits himself: that he puts aside one or two eggs, which he breaks as soon as the young in the other eggs are hatched. These eggs are addle: as soon as they are broken a number of flies, and beetles, and other insects, come and settle upon them, and upon these insects the young ones feed. But this is not very likely, for it seems very unnatural for the male bird to sit. It is very possible, indeed, that one or two of the eggs in a nest may have been addle, and that when they have been broken, flies, and beetles, and other insects, may have come to them, and that the young birds may have fed upon these insects; but this might be only an accident, and not contrived by the old bird.

The young of the American Ostrich are very tame, and will follow men, but they soon become wild as they grow older. The feathers of these birds are not nearly so beautiful as those of the Ostrich.



The character of the Grallæ, that is of the birds of this order, is, that in general the beak is long and slender, and a little cylindric.

The legs are formed for wading, with thighs half bare of feathers.

The body is compressed, the skin thin, the tail short, and the flesh in general well tasted.

They live upon small animals and insects, and procure their food out of marshy situations.

Their nests are mostly upon the ground.

The same wisdom that has been employed in one part of the creation has been employed in all.

Every living thing that we see was created by the power of God; it was contrived by his wisdom, it is supported by his goodness.

Let us for a few moments consider the attentive care of a Being, who is perfectly wise and perfectly good, in this order of birds of which we have just been reading.

We see, that in general their food is soft, such as worms, and reptiles, and insects; and their bills are well contrived for this kind of food.

As they live in marshy places, and wade in the water, their legs are mostly long, and bare of feathers half way up the thigh.

The

The Flamingo's legs are of an unusual length that he may wade in the water, but his neck is long in proportion, that he may readily feed himself: and as he lives upon small fish, the spawn of fish, and aquatic insects, that is to say, insects that are found in the water, his beak is toothed, that he may filter the water and yet keep in his food.

If the Flamingo was to make its nest, and sit like many other birds, its legs would be much in the way. Providence therefore has taught it to raise a cone of mud, and to place its eggs in a hollow on the top, so that its legs hang down on each side.

The Spoonbill, the Screamer, the Jabiru, the Heron, the Crane, the Stork, and the Ibis, are of great use in destroying serpents, and many venomous reptiles, which otherwise would increase so fast as to be hurtful to mankind. For this reason we see that these birds are very much esteemed in the countries which they inhabit, and in general no persons are allowed to destroy them.

How wonderful too is the migration of the Woodcocks, how well are they taught to consult those winds which assist them in so long a flight, how attentive are they to their young, in helping them to escape when they are pursued! their eyes are placed very far back in their head, so that they

they are not exposed to injury when their beaks are thrust deep in the ground.

Lapwings and Plovers employ many artifices to mislead the fowler from their little ones. The Plover strikes the ground with its feet, and the worms thinking, perhaps, that a mole is near, come out upon the surface. Plovers, too, place sentinels to warn them of their danger, and so feed in security.

The beak of the Avoset is suited only to its way of life; and the Beak of the Oyster-Catcher, which is flattened sideways, enables him to force the shell-fish from the rocks.

Coots live almost constantly on the water, their feet have scalloped membranes, and are perfectly suited to that element. The purple Gallinule, because its legs are long, and its neck is short, has been taught by nature (in order to remedy any inconvenience from such a form) to use its feet as Parrots do, to convey its food to its beak.

Rails are furnished with a wonderful instinct which teaches them, when pursued by a dog, to return back in the same path, in order to baffle the scent; and when the season of their migration comes, they seem supplied with new and unknown powers to perform their journey.

The arms of the Jacana, (that is the spurs on its wings;) and the pouch in the gullet of the Bustard, are wonderful provisions made for their preservation.

The unwieldy size of the Ostrich prevents it from flying, but it is furnished with uncommon strength and swiftness, that it may either contend with or escape from its enemies.

The birds of the next genus that we shall give an account of are so singular and uncommon in their form, that it is difficult to arrange them under any order. Edwards, who has given a very good etching of the Dodo, speaks of it as a bird not properly belonging to any yet described. From its bulk, its unwieldiness, from its wings being useless for flying, and its living on the land, by some Naturalists it has been placed with the Ostrich and Cassowary, and a new order has been formed of them, called the Struthious; by Linnaeus it is placed among the Gallinæ.



ORDER 5<sup>th</sup>. Gallinæ.  
Genus 58 Didus.



DODO.

## ORDER 5. GALLINÆ.

The bill is convex: the upper mandible is curvated, or bowed, extending with a margin near the lower mandible.

The nostrils are half covered with a convex, and cartilaginous membrane.

The tail feathers are more in number than twelve.

The feet are connected as far as the first joint, and afterwards divided.

## GENUS 58. DIDUS.

## THE DODO.

**T**HE bill bends inwards; at the middle of the upper mandible it is marked with two oblique ribs, and much hooked at the end.

The face is bare of feathers beyond the eyes.

The legs are short and thick, and feathered a little below the knees. The toes are three forwards and one behind.

The Dodo is larger either than the Swan or the Turkey; its body is heavy and of a very strange form; its legs are short and clumsy; the head is very remarkable, and seems covered with a kind of veil; its two large black eyes are each surrounded with a circle of white, and the gape of the bill reaches beyond the eyes.

The wings of the Dodo are short, and useless for flying.

The feathers in general are soft, and of a grey colour; those of the wings and of the tail are yellow and white.

The feathers of the tail are curled like those of the Ostrich, and stand up from the bottom of the back.

In the stomach of the Dodo stones have frequently been found. Some persons have imagined that they were formed there, but it is much more likely that the bird swallowed them like the Ostrich and Cassowary, and many of the gallinaceous birds.

They are found in the islands of Mauritius, or the islands of France and Bourbon, in the Indian Ocean.

The Solitary Dodo is found in the island of Rodrigue.

It weighs about forty-five pounds; the plumage is generally grey, mixed with brown; in the female the colours of the feathers are changeable, sometimes they show more of the brown, and sometimes of the straw colour, and they appear very beautiful.

Though



Though the Hooded Dodo be a very awkward bird, the Solitary Dodo is said to have a graceful carriage.

The female, above the bill, has something like a widow's peak; the feathers meet there in a point, in the same manner as they do above the beak of the Owl; and on each side the breast she has a tuft of white feathers.

The feathers of the thighs are rounded at the ends, and have something of the form of shells; this has a very pleasing appearance. She is very careful to smooth her feathers, and employs herself almost continually in drawing her beak over them, and placing them in form.

The Solitary Dodo is something like a Turkey, but its legs are longer, and its bill more crooked: its neck too is of a greater length in proportion. It has no crest or tuft upon its head, or scarcely any tail; behind it is round, just as a horse is in those parts, and it is clothed with feathers which may be called coverts.

Though the wings of the Solitary Dodo cannot be used for flying, because they are too short, and the body is too heavy, yet they are useful for the purpose of defending itself, and for making a noise with to call its companion. On one of the joints of each wing there is a round bony knob, and he fights with this as well as with his beak.

Though

Though this species of the Dodo be in great numbers, yet they are never seen in flocks, or seldom indeed more than two together.

They seek for retired situations for breeding; they make their nests of the leaves of palm trees, heaped together about a foot and an half above the ground; in this nest the female lays but one egg, which is larger than the egg of a goose.

Whilst she is sitting, or has the care of her young, they suffer no other bird to approach the nest.

The egg is seven weeks in hatching, and it is several months before the young Solitary Dodo is able to take care of itself. The parents never separate from one another.

A stone is found in its gizzard, as in the Dodo's.

The Solitary Dodo never can be tamed, though it is not so wild but that it will suffer itself to be taken. It is said, that in the woods, though it be not swift, it escapes frequently from its pursuers, by hiding itself, or by some artifice or other; on the plains it is soon overtaken. When it is caught some people have declared, that it sheds tears, though it does not make any noise; and sometimes it will obstinately refuse food, and die of hunger and vexation.

The

The Bird of Nazareth, another kind of Dodo, is larger than a Swan; his body, instead of feathers, is covered with a black down, though it is not entirely without feathers, for some in the wings are black, and those on the bottom of its back are curled. Its cry is like that of a Hawk, and its flesh is tolerably good. The female lays but one egg, it is white, and as large as a penny loaf. She lays upon the ground, in forests, upon a heap of grass and leaves, which she has gathered together.

END OF PART IV.

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in PART IV.

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	Purple Gallinule,	-	-	-	11
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ORDER 5<sup>th</sup> Gallinae.  
Genus 50 Parv.



PEACOCK.

# THE NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS.

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## ORDER 5th. GALLINÆ.

The beak is convex : the upper mandible is bowed, extending with a margin over the lower mandible.

The nostrils are half covered with a convex, and cartilaginous membrane, (that is a convex grizzly skin.)

The tail feathers are more than twelve, in most species.

The feet are connected as far as the first joint, and afterwards divided.

## GENUS 39. PAVO. THE PEACOCK.

The bill is convex and strong.

The head is small, and crested.

The legs are furnished with spurs.

The feathers above the tail are very long, ornamented at their ends with spots, called eyes, or moons.

**T**HE Peacock, from its elegant shape, its noble carriage, the beautiful proportions of its body, and the richness of its plumage, excels every other bird. Its head is adorned with a moveable crest of twenty-four fea-

#### 4 THE NATURAL HISTORY

thers, scarcely webbed but at their ends, of a green colour glossed with gold: round the eyes is a white skin, and the small feathers which cover its ears seem a little rough. The head, neck, and breast of the male, are of a beautiful blue, which sometimes seems enriched with shades of green and purple, (the neck of the female is green glossed with gold.) The back is green, inlaid with gold, and the feathers lie one over another like shells; above the tail is a train of long and beautiful feathers; the shafts or stems of these feathers, are ornamented with separate webs of green and gold and chefnut colour; at the end a number of these webs are united together, and adorned with the eye or moon, which is a shining spot, painted as it were with the most beautiful colours, several shades of gold and green, and of blue deepening into a rich violet: these appear still more striking, because the colour in the centre or middle, is a fine velvet black.

The true tail is hid beneath this train, and consists of eighteen brown feathers.

The Peacock has the power of raising his train, spreading it in a circle, and giving it a quivering motion; it is then that he displays all his beauties, his crest moves, and his head and neck fall-



ing back majestically towards his tail, he appears in all his glory.

In the time of King Solomon (who reigned over the Jews, and was remarkable for his wisdom,) they were brought to Jerusalein as great curiosities, as appears by the Scriptures; and when we recollect that Solomon spoke of trees from the cedar-tree that is in Lebanon, to the hyssop that springeth out of the wall, also of beasts and of fowls, we shall not be surprised that in his ships he should have brought Apes and Peacocks.

The Peacock was not originally an European bird; but was brought from the East Indies in Asia, by Alexander, who lived more than 2000 years ago.

Alexander, was a King in part of Greece, (which is now called Turkey in Europe) and conquered part of Asia, he was so much pleased with the beauty of the Peacock, that he ordered that none should be killed. About his time they were brought into Greece, and increased very fast. The Europeans have now distributed them in most parts of the world, in Africa, in North America, and in several of the islands in the West Indies.

## 6 THE NATURAL HISTORY

They feed upon grain and insects, like other gallinaceous birds; the flower or blossom of the elder-tree is poisonous to them, and it is said that the sting of the nettle, and the leaves of the fox-glove will kill the young ones.

In different climates, Pea-fowl lay different numbers of eggs; in England but five or six, of a greyish white, about the size of Turkey's egg, and only once in the year. Whilst the Peahen lays, she endeavours to conceal her nest from the Peacock, who (it is said) will sometimes break the eggs; but whether he breaks them on purpose, or only in trying to sit upon them, is not certain.

The Peahen sits twenty-seven or thirty days, more or less, according to the coolness or the heat of the climate or season. She is very shy, and if she be much observed, or disturbed, she will forsake her eggs.

The little ones, when first hatched, are fed with barley meal, cheese curds, and chopped leeks; afterwards they will eat barley; but as they feed much upon insects, like young Turkeys, they generally do best when they are mostly left to the care of their parents. For some time they let their wings hang, and do not know how to use them; the mother carries them upon her back every

every evening, one by one, to the branch of the tree where they are to roost; in the morning she flies down before them, and encourages them to follow, and thus begins to teach them to use their wings.

When the young are about a month old, the crest begins to shew itself, then they are sick, just as little Turkeys are when their wattles (that is the red skin on their throats) first appears.

The young Peacocks may be known from the young Peahens, by a little yellow which appears at the end of the wings. The neck of the young Peacock is blue, the young Peahen's neck is green; afterwards the Peacocks become the largest, and have a spur on each leg.

The Peacock never loses his crest; but the tail feathers, and the two beautiful side feathers, drop every year about July, and others grow in their place in the spring: whilst he is without these feathers, he seems melancholy, and hides himself, as though ashamed to be seen.

Peacocks are birds of courage, they fight very well, and generally make themselves masters in the poultry-yard.

They generally roost upon the roofs of houses, upon chimneys, or on the branches of trees.

## 8 THE NATURAL HISTORY

Their voice is very loud, and by some thought disagreeable.

They live about twenty-five years.

In the East Indies they are taken in this manner,—two candles lighted, and an artificial or a stuffed Peacock, are placed on a frame; and to this frame is fixed a noose: when the Peacock is at roost, this is raised upon a pole, and brought near him; he puts out his neck to look at the painted or artificial Peacock, and so is caught in the noose.

Young Pea-fowl are very good food. The Romans, who were very expensive, and very cruel in procuring their entertainments, frequently had dishes made of the heads and brains of Pea-fowl, and of the tongues of singing birds. These dishes could not be more pleasing to the taste than many others, and shewed a want of good-sense, as well as extravagance, or wastefulness, and unfeeling minds. The crests of Pea-fowl were formerly used as ornaments by the Kings of England, and fans have been made of their feathers, and crowns for poets.

A very surprising account has been given of a Peahen, which, after it had done laying eggs, became very much like a Peacock; its feathers  
were

were of the same colour, its train grew out, and was spotted with eyes.

There is a variety of the Peacock whose feathers are perfectly white, and constantly so. They do not, like Hares and Foxes, and several other animals, in cold northern countries, become white only in the winter, and afterwards change their colour again, but they and their young are always white. The eyes or moons may be distinguished in the tail of the male, they are white, but of a different shade.

Another variety is produced between a white Peacock and a common Peahen; these are pied, in some parts white, in others like the common Pea-fowl.

There is another species called the Iris Peacock,—the feathers on the head are long, and form a kind of crest; on the back part of each leg are two spurs. The wing feathers are each marked near the ends with a roundish spot of golden purple, which, in some lights, seem to change to blue and green. The train is longer than the tail, and each feather spotted at the end with a circle of black, and of orange.

This bird inhabits China.

10 THE NATURAL HISTORY

Another species has an upright tapering crest, and no spurs, and a red circle round each eye. It inhabits Japan.

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GENUS 60. MELEAGRIS.

TURKEY.

The head is covered with a spongy substance.

The throat is furnished with a membranaceous, and flaccid, carunculated skin, (that is, with a loose skin covered with warts.)

First Species, The common TURKEY.

THE head and fore part of the neck is covered with a loose warty skin.

The breast of the male has a tuft of black hair when he is three years old; and his legs are each furnished with a spur, or rather a blunt knob.

The number of the feathers in the tail are eighteen.

The female has not the spur, sometimes the tuft of black hair appears on the breast, but it is neither so long, or so full, as on the breast of the male.

The

The head of the Turkey is rather small in proportion to the rest of the body, and bare; a few black hairs are scattered between the red warty knobs, which appear on the bluish spongy skin of the head and throat; and a few small feathers are seen on the upper part of the throat, they increase in number lower down.

On the base of the beak of the cock, is a piece of skin of the same kind; in its natural state it is not more than an inch long, but when he is enraged, it hangs down one third the length of the neck; and the skin of the head and neck, becomes of a deep crimson colour; he throws his head and neck backwards, bristles up his feathers, drops his wings, and struts about with his tail raised and spread, and his wings rustling upon the ground; he makes first a kind of stifled and hissing noise, and afterwards a louder gobbling cry, which is often repeated.

They may at any time be made to do this, by shewing them something red, which always puts them in a great passion.

The colours of the Turkey, as in most domestic fowls, are very different. Some are black, beautifully glossed with green, with purple, and with copper; the tail waved with black and white:

some are spotted with white; some are grey; some clay-coloured; and some perfectly white.

The Turkey may be said to have two tails, that which he sometimes raises, and which is composed of eighteen feathers; and another below, the feathers of which are smaller.

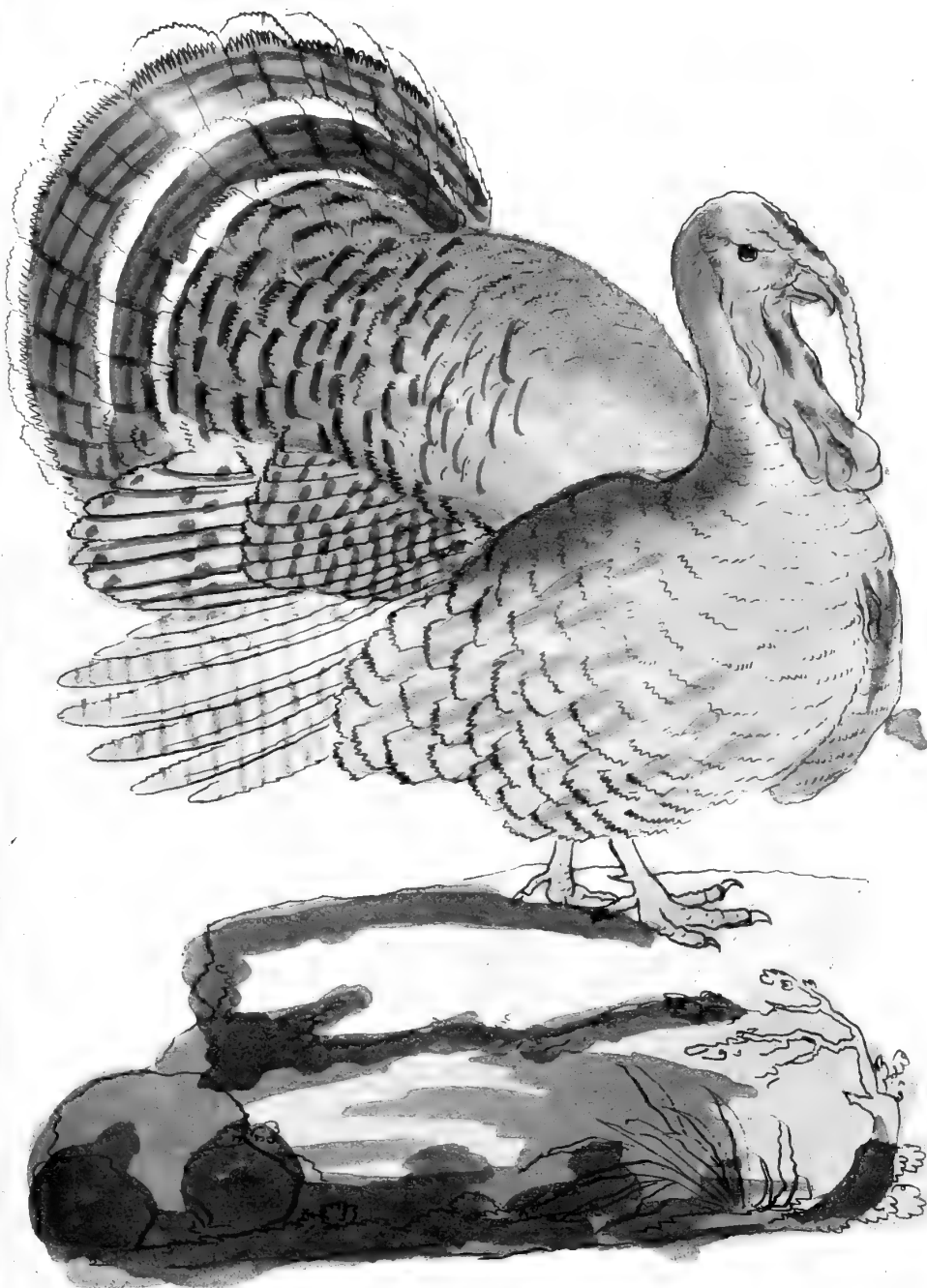
The Turkey was originally an American bird, it was seen in France in the reign of Francis the First, and in England in the reign of Henry the Eighth, which is more than 240 years ago; it was probably brought from Mexico in America. In the Antilles, (which are islands in the Atlantic ocean,) they lay three or four times a year, and they are larger than with us. In some parts of America, they go in flocks of four or five hundred; they frequent woods, feed on acorns, and return at night to the swamps to roost. They perch on the dead branches of trees, and are so tame, that even when one of their flock is killed, the rest will remain where they were, and suffer themselves to be shot; sometimes they will let a man come near enough to kill them with a pistol.

In March they grow so fat, that they can fly but three or four hundred yards at a time, and are frequently hunted down by a man on horseback.

They



ORDER 5<sup>th</sup> Gallinæ.  
*Genus 60 Meleagris.*



TURKEY.

Published June 1<sup>st</sup> 1787 by Jos. Johnson S. Pauls Church Yard London.



They are often taken by means of dogs, for though they run and fly faster for some time, they soon become tired, perch upon the high trees, and suffer themselves to be killed with a gun.

The Indians make an elegant clothing of their feathers; they work the webs like matting, in threads made from hemp, or the inner bark of the mulberry-tree.—These dresses appear very glossy.

We make fans and umbrellas with the tail.

The Turkey in a domestic or tame state, lays from twelve to fifteen eggs; and sits a month: if the eggs be addle, she will sit so long as almost to destroy herself. Sometimes, after bringing up one brood, she will lay again, but the second hatch seldom succeeds in England: the cold and wet weather begins before the young are strong, and kills them.

Hen Turkeys may be made to sit in almost any situation, and if they have built a nest in a place exposed to Foxes and Weefels, it will be proper to take the eggs away as they are laid; by this means they will sometimes lay a greater number.

It is easily known when they have done laying, by their continuing on the nest; if then a new nest be made, the eggs placed in it, and the female confined there a few days, she will sit as constantly

## 14 THE NATURAL HISTORY

constantly as though she had chosen her place; and she sits so closely, that by taking away the young, and putting other eggs under her, she will hatch a second brood: but this is a cruel experiment, and very hurtful to the bird, for as they take but very little food whilst they sit, it reduces the Turkey to a skeleton, and makes her very weak.

At first the young are very tender, for several days they must be kept dry and fed often; it is very improper to give them any milk, because it soon becomes sour, and then certainly kills them.

They are very fond of chopped garlick, leeks, and nettles, and, as they feed much upon insects, so soon as the dew is gone, they should be suffered to go abroad on the short grass with their mother. If the grass be long it entangles their legs and tires them, so that they often die of fatigue. They should not be exposed to the evening cold, to rain, or even damp, which often benumbs their legs, and brings on complaints that soon kill them. The sting of nettles, or the leaves of fox-glove, will destroy the young.

The Turkey has the same care and anxiety for her little ones as the common Hen. She broods them under her wings, and defends them  
with

with the same courage. She discovers birds of prey when they are at a great distance, and before they can be seen by our eyes; immediately as she perceives them, she makes a noise, which discovers her fears, and alarms the young ones,—instantly they take shelter under bushes, and stay there so long as their parent continues the cry.

When the young are first hatched, their heads are covered with a kind of down, but not with the spongy skin; as soon as this appears, they become very ill, as children do when they cut their teeth.

Though at first they are very tender, in time they become hardy, and can bear the severest cold, perched on trees, or on the tops of houses, in the midst of winter.

When they roost in trees, they get as high as they wish, by rising from bough to bough.

Great numbers are bred every year in Norfolk and Suffolk, and driven to London in autumn. They are easily managed by a piece of red rag tied to a stick. They so much dislike that colour, that it drives them forwards as a whip would drive a Horse.

In America, Turkeys are said to weigh from thirty to forty pounds, in England it is uncommon for them to weigh twenty-five pounds.

In Sir Ashton Lever's Museum, there is a Turkey with a large tuft of feathers on its head.

A second species of the Turkey is called the Guan, the head is furnished with long feathers, which the Guan can raise like a crest; the sides of the head are covered with a naked purplish skin, in which the eyes are placed; beneath the throat there is a loose skin of a beautiful red, covered only with a few hairs. The legs are red, and the claws black.

It inhabits Brazil in South America, is often tamed, it makes a noise like the word Jacu, and the flesh is a delicate food.

Another species is called the Horned Turkey; behind each eye is a fleshy callous blue substance, like horns; on the fore part of the neck and throat is a loose blue flap, spotted with orange; the neck and breast are of a reddish orange, and the rest of the body of a reddish brown, spotted with white eyes or moons, which are surrounded with black.

It inhabits Bengal, and is in size between a Fowl and Turkey.

Another species is called the Yacou; the head feathers are long, and pointed, and when the bird chuses, may be raised like a crest: it has a blue skin round the eyes, which does not change colour

ORDER 5<sup>th</sup>. Gallinae.  
Genus 60. Meleagris.



GUAN.





colour like the Turkey's, and a blackish wattle. The plumage is mostly brown marked with white, and there are but twelve feathers in the tail.

It is found at Cayenne, but in greater numbers in the inner parts of Amazonia; in Cayenne it is tame, breeds there, and is kept with Poultry.

The Yacou makes its nest on the ground, but, except in breeding time, is mostly perched on trees; if taken notice of, and pleased, it raises its crest and spreads its tail, like the common Turkey.

The Yacou has two cries, the one like the cry of the young Turkey, and the other lower.

The Marail Turkey is another species, it is about the size of a common Fowl; round the eyes is a naked pale red skin, the throat is bare, and has a loose naked skin half an inch long; the feathers of its head are longish, and may be raised so as to form a crest: the plumage is of a greenish black, the tail has twelve long feathers, which generally hang down.

When this bird is enraged, it raises not only its crest, but all the feathers of its head: the skin of the throat and round the eyes change colour; the tail is lifted up and spread, like the common Turkey; and its appearance is so different, that

it could scarcely be supposed to be the same bird.

This species of the Turkey is common in the woods in the inner parts of Guiana; they are mostly seen in small flocks, on high trees, where they roost at night. In breeding time they are generally on the ground, or on low shrubs, and are found in pairs.

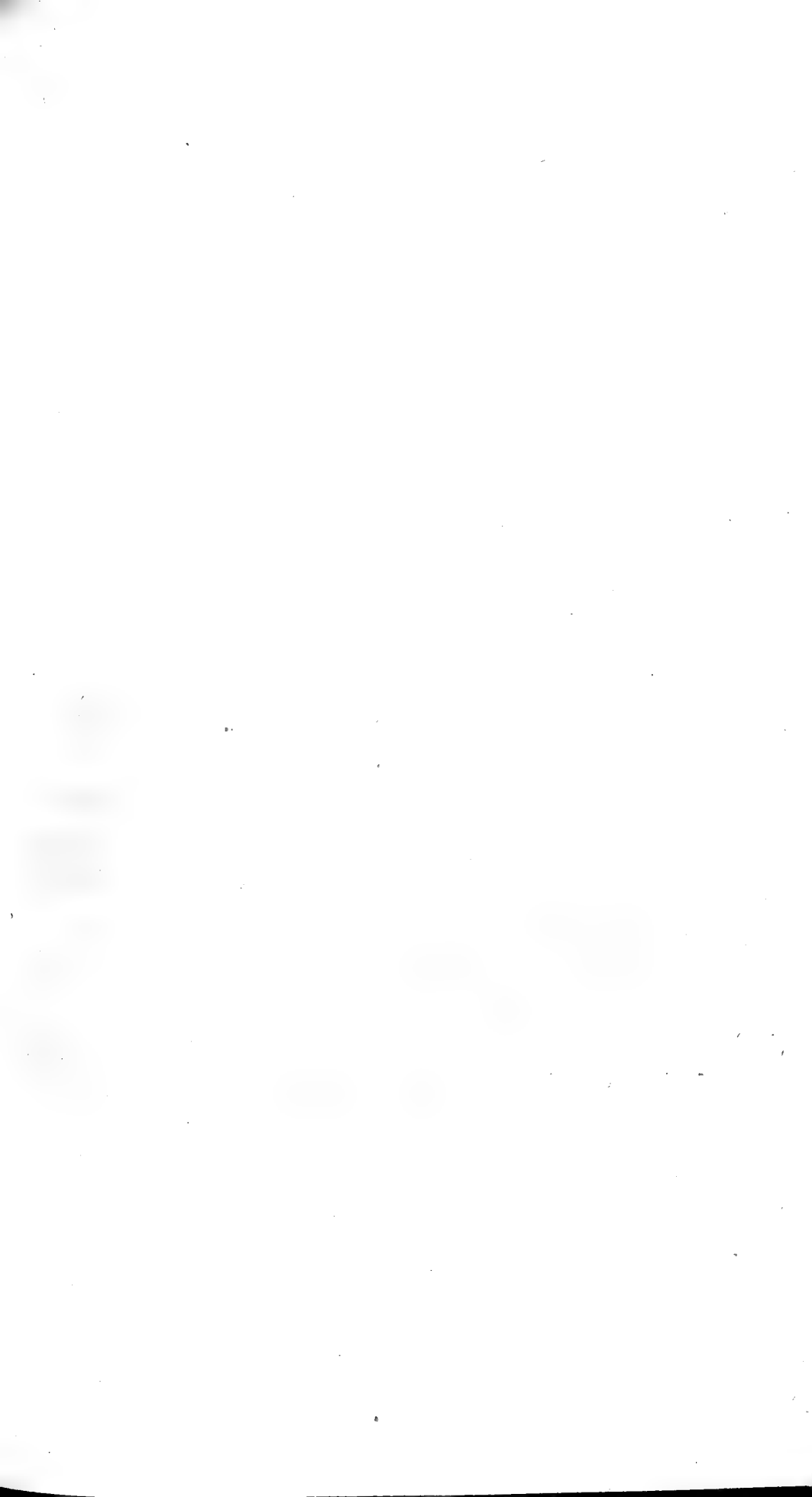
The female makes her nest on a low bushy tree, near the trunk; lays three or four eggs, and ten or twelve days after the young are hatched, they come down with the mother to the ground.

She then broods her young, and scratches the ground like a Hen.

They have two broods a year, and the young leave their parents when they can take care of themselves. They are easily tamed, and seldom forsake the place where they have been brought up. They prefer, like the common Turkey, to roost on high trees.

The windpipe of this bird is of a very singular construction, and its cry, when wounded or angry, is harsh and loud.

It is a very delicate food, and more esteemed than the Pheasant.



ORDER 5<sup>th</sup> Gallinae.  
Genus 61 Crax.



CUSHEW BIRD.

CURASSO BIRD.

The Indians imitate their cry very nearly, and so as to deceive the birds, who, by answering the cry, discover where they are.

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GENUS 61.

C R A X.

## THE CURASSOW.

The bill is covered at the base with a cere, where there is frequently a large knob.

The head mostly adorned with a crest of feathers, curling at the ends.

**T**HE Crested Curassow or Powese. The cere is yellow, the plumage on the body black, on the stomach white. It is about the size of the common Cock. The cere takes up more than half the beak, both upon the upper and lower mandible; the tongue is intire. The feathers of the neck are soft and velvety; the temples bald and black; the tail is rounded, and consists of fourteen feathers. It has no spurs.

The wings of this bird are short, and its flight heavy; its crest is between two and three inches long, it reaches from the base of the beak, to the back of the head, and is composed of twisted black feathers, inclining rather backward, but  
curling

curling forwards at their points. He can raise or lower this crest at pleasure ; but he has never been observed to raise the feathers of his tail, like the Peacock and Turkey.

The Powese, (or Hocco, as it is called by Bufson,) frequents woods and mountains, in several parts of South America, perching upon trees, where it likes to roost.

These birds are easily brought up tame, and are frequently found in the Dutch settlements of Berbice, Essequibo, and Demerary, in South America. They are fed with bread and maize ; and their flesh is delicate food.

The carriage of the Powese is noble, it is a gentle and unsuspicious bird, and when in its wild state in flocks, does not attempt to escape, though it sees its companions shot one after another. Such a bird must be easily tamed ; in a domestic state it will wander to some distance in the day, but returns to its usual roosting place in the evening. It may be made so familiar as to strike against the door with its beak that it may be opened,—to take the servants by their clothes when they neglect it,—to follow its master like the Agami, and, like the Agami, to express great satisfaction, when it sees its master again after a short absence.

The

The Peruvian Curassow is another species, or perhaps the female of the former. The plumage is a reddish brown; the head of a blueish cast: they vary much in their plumage. The knob at the base of the bill in the young is very small, but grows much larger as they become older; in some it is bare, in others covered with short feathers. They came originally from Mexico and Peru, but are now kept in a tame state in many parts of America, and in the West India islands, as Turkeys are with us; and like all birds that have been long made domestic, vary much in their plumage.

They are sometimes kept in menageries in England, and feed on bread and grain; but the cold and dampness of our climate is very hurtful to them, and the moisture of the grass in our fields often brings on complaints in their feet, and occasions their toes to decay, and fall off; in this state they will live some time. Mr. Latham saw a bird of this species, which lived until after the whole of one foot was gone, and only part of one toe left upon the other.

In their wild state they frequent mountainous places, feed on fruits, roost on high trees, and do not offer to escape when they see several of their flock killed.

The

The Globose Curassow is another species.

The bill is yellow except at the tip, over the nostrils is a hard yellow knob, about the size of a cherry ; the feathers of the crest are black tip'd with white ; the plumage of the body is of a blueish black.

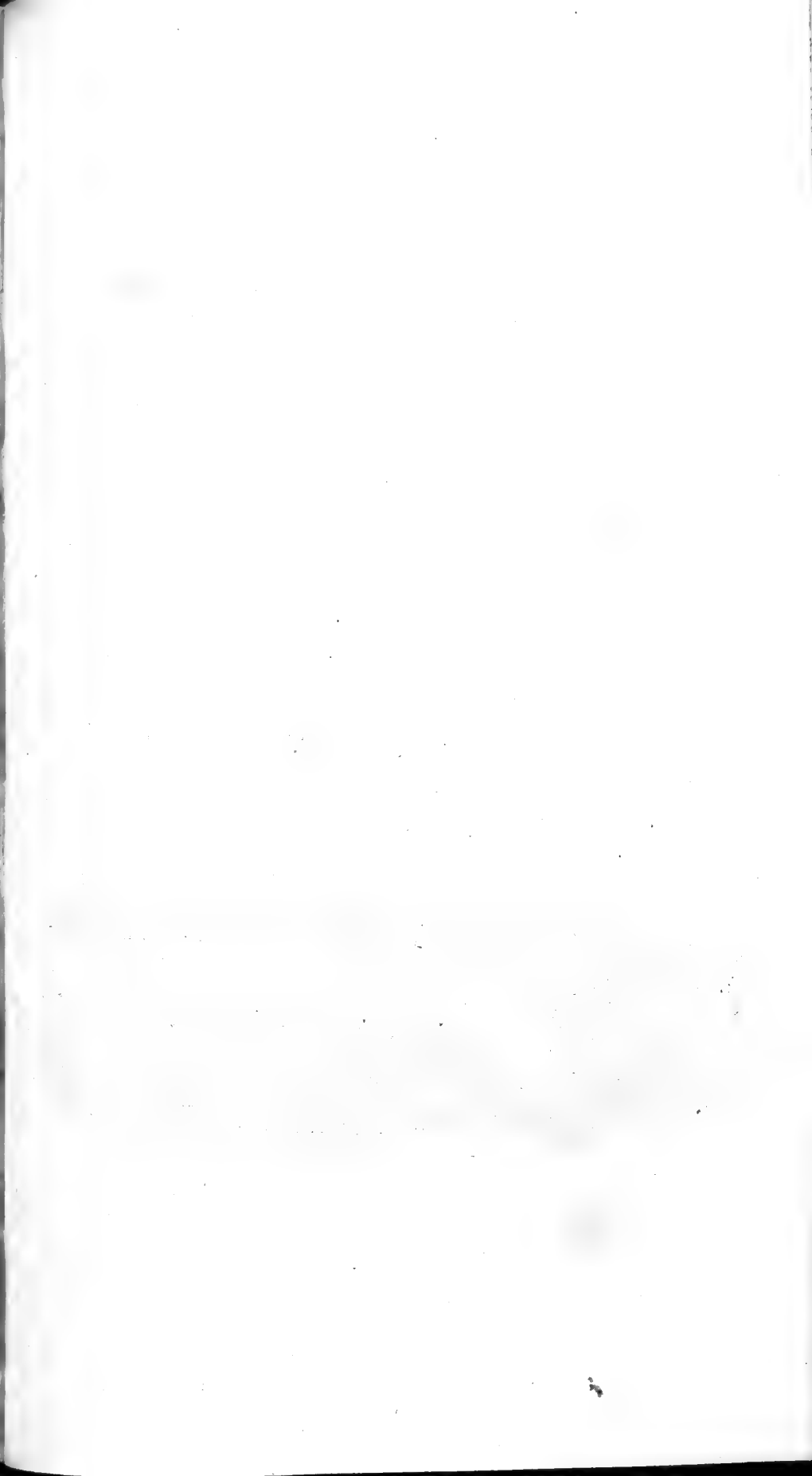
It inhabits Guiana and Brazil ; its manners are like the Powese, of which perhaps it may be a variety.

The Cushew Bird is another species ; its beak is red, the cere is blue, the knob at the base of the beak as big as a small pear, the plumage is of a glossy purplish black, the under part of the body and tips of the tail feathers are white.

This bird is the most elegant in its form of any of this Genus. It perches upon trees, but lays upon the ground, like the Pheasant. The female walks with her young, and calls them to her like the Hen ; at first they feed on insects, afterwards upon fruit or grain, or the usual food of poultry.

There is another species called the Crying Curassow, from the loud noise it is almost continually making. It frequents mountainous places, where it breeds.





ORDER 5<sup>th</sup> Gallinæ.  
Genus 02 Phasianus.



COMMON COCK.

Published June 1. 1787. by J. Johnson St Pauls Church Yard London.

## GENUS 62. PHASIANUS.

The cheeks are covered with a smooth naked skin.

**F**IRST species. The common Cock has a red fleshy substance, compressed or flattened on his head, and on each side of his throat.

The ears are naked.

The tail is compressed, and raised ; in the male arched.

The Cock is a heavy bird, of a slow and majestic carriage, his wings are short, so that he seldom flies, and when he does it seems to be with difficulty ; he has generally four toes on each foot, some have five ; in a bird that has been so long domesticated, several varieties must be expected, but in all cases three of the toes are placed before and the rest behind.

Two feathers grow out of every quill. The tail consists of fourteen feathers, in the male the two middlemost are much longer than the rest, and bend in the form of a bow. The feathers of his neck and tail are long and narrow, and his legs are armed with spurs.

This bird is now introduced every where, it came probably at first from the East Indies, or  
some

some of the Asiatic islands. It has been found in most of the islands in Asia and in the South Seas. In Sumatra and Java, there is a very large breed; it is said that the Cock is so tall as to peck off a common dining-table; that when it is tired it rests on the first joint of its leg, and is then taller than a common fowl.

The Cock scratches the ground for worms and insects, and swallows small stones, which help him to digest his food.

Birds of this species eat grain, bread, insects, and even meat. There have been instances of poultry which, by long confinement in a menagerie, where there was no grass, and few or no worms, or insects, but where they could get at some horse-flesh (which was kept there occasionally for dogs) grew so fond of animal food, that they sometimes killed and devoured one another. They destroyed some very young Turkeys, and fed greedily upon them, though they were plentifully supplied with barley. The berries of elder is very hurtful to them.

They have three stomachs, if we allow the gizzard to be one; and the power of this last is so great, that in four hours it will reduce into the finest powder a hollow ball of glass, strong enough to bear a weight of four pounds, without breaking;

ing ; it has been known to flatten tin tubes, and to grind down seventeen nuts in the space of twenty-four hours. When this gizzard is opened a quantity of small stones are found in it, which they have swallowed in order, perhaps, to help to grind their food.

When they drink, they first take the water in their beaks, and raise their heads every time to swallow.

The females of this species, or the Hens, make a nest which is by no means curious, and they will frequently lay in boxes that are provided for them, upon a little straw or hay, that may have been placed there for a nest. Some occasionally lay eggs that are covered with a skin only, and without any shell ; these never produce Chickens, and are supposed to be laid only when the Hen is too fat. Other eggs sometimes have had a very thick shell, and some have had two shells.

Hens lay at all seasons of the year, except when they are moulting, or shedding their old feathers ; this continues about six weeks or two months, and generally happens towards the beginning of winter. It may seem remarkable, that the new feathers are not always of the same co-

lours with those they have shed, but this is often the case with birds of other kinds.

Hens frequently lay almost every day. In Malacca, which is in Siam in Asia, they often lay twice a day. Warmth is very necessary at that time; and they will produce many eggs during the cold weather in winter, if they are kept in a stable upon warm horse-litter. As soon as the Hen has laid, she makes a noise which is called cackling.

Eggs, as soon as they are laid, begin to give out moisture through the shell, they lose some grains in weight every day, and in time spoil, either for producing Chickens or for eating: indeed the less fresh an egg is, the longer it is in being hatched. Those who are accustomed to raise poultry, prefer new laid eggs, and we do not find that when a Hen makes a nest unobserved, and lays her eggs undisturbed, that the first laid are hatched sooner than the last; though they must have been set upon for sometime, perhaps every day, since they were laid. In order to preserve eggs from spoiling, it is usual to cover the shell with butter, or with some greasy substance; by these means they have been kept good for some months, and it is imagined that they might be preserved so for a year.

When

When a Hen has laid about twelve or fourteen eggs, if they be not taken from her, she will begin to sit; but even though they should be removed, she will become broody (that is, desirous of sitting) after laying twenty-five or thirty; and sit even upon a single egg: but if she be dipped in cold water, she immediately loses her inclination of continuing upon her nest.

During the time of incubation, or sitting, their bodies are supposed to be warmer than usual, and they want but little food. It is said that they turn their eggs every day.

After an egg has been sat upon six hours, the head and back bone of the Chicken may be discovered swimming in a fluid which is at one end of the egg, and in the white.

The second day the joints of the back bone faintly begin to form; and one may see the beginning of the wings, and of the vessels in the stomach, the neck, and the breast; the head grows larger, the traces of the eyes are seen, the heart beats, and the blood circulates or flows.

The third day every thing becomes larger and more distinct; veins and arteries appear upon the bladders which are upon the head, and the marrow in the back bone is faintly seen.

The fourth day the several humours of the eye may be discovered, the wings grow, the thighs begin to appear, and the body to be covered with flesh.

The sixth day the liver becomes black, and the body gets a skin.

The 7th day the beak is seen, and the beginning of feathers.

The lungs appear the ninth day, and the tenth day the heart is quite formed.

From that time until the Chicken be hatched, every part becomes daily more perfect.

If the Hen should leave the nest for nearly a day towards the latter end of the time of her sitting; (and the weather should then be warm,) this does not always occasion the Chickens to die, but will prevent their being hatched so soon by several days as otherwise they might have been.

In Egypt, eggs are hatched in ovens; the art consists in giving them the proper degree of heat, (which is a few degrees more than that of the human body) to keep out moisture, and to turn them often: but these Chickens are frequently imperfect, and after they are hatched require great care.

Mr. Reaumur, a very ingenious Frenchman, invented for that purpose artificial Hens, which are



are nothing more than boxes lined with sheepskins, with the wool outwards, and kept warm by a stove : under these the Chickens run when they have occasion for warmth.

The heat of the Hen is about 104 degrees by Fahrenheit's thermometer, this is eight degrees warmer than the human body, which is about 96.

It is said that Livia hatched an egg in her bosom. Livia was the wife of Augustus Cæsar, who lived about 1800 years ago, and was emperor of Rome.

Pullets, or young Hens, lay when they are about six months old. The younger Hens lay the most eggs, but the older Hens are thought to sit the best.

When the Hen has hatched she is very careful of her young. She scratches the ground for worms, and shews them to her Chickens. She attends them with the greatest anxiety, and defends them against dogs and men, with a courage, indeed a kind of fury, which she possesses at no other time, for the Hen is rather a timid bird. She broods her young under her wings, frequently calls them to her, and informs them by a cry which is peculiar, when a bird of prey hovers near. Little Chickens can peck soon after they are born ; though they do not require any food immediately. In the egg, the Chicken is

formed out of and nourished by the white, till it be in part grown, afterwards the yolk serves for its nourishment, and indeed for some little time after it is hatched; for a good part of the yolk remains within the Chicken, and helps to support it.

The crowing of the Cock is very different from the cry of the Hen, and much louder: he crows by night and by day, and at that time flaps his sides with his wings; he may be considered as the villagers clock. He roosts generally on one leg, and hides his head under one of his wings.

The true Game Cock is a very courageous bird, and will rather suffer himself to be killed than run away.

In some nations there are men so cruel as to breed them on purpose to fight with one another, and they will wager great sums of money on a battle. This custom is common among the Chinese, the inhabitants of the Phillipine Islands, of Java, and of some parts of America; and it is a pity that we cannot say that it is no longer practised in England. The Game Cocks of this country are allowed to be more courageous than those of any other. Before the battle, it is customary to cut off part of the tail, and of the feathers, and of the fleshy substance about the head  
and

and neck, in order to make him lighter in the first place, and besides to give his enemy the less opportunity of taking hold, by this he is so altered that he would scarcely be known.

Great care is taken of the breed; indeed the same attention is paid to it as to the breed of race horses, and it has been perhaps as much improved.

England was famous for its poultry before the time of Julius Cæsar, which is more than 1800 years ago.

They are said to come originally from Persia. Now they are found wild in the island of Tinian, and in other islands of the Indian ocean. In their wild state their plumage is black and yellow, and their wattles purple and yellow. The fleshy substance near the lower mandible is called the wattles.

It is imagined they were first brought to England by the Phœnicians. The Phœnicians lived in Turkey in Asia, near Mount Lebanon, on the coast of the Mediterranean sea, and were famous for their extensive commerce.

Sometimes teeth have been transplanted into the comb of a Cock, and have continued to grow there as in a kind of nursery bed, ready to be removed again into the gums of persons who have been obliged to have their own drawn.

And sometimes a spur from the leg of one Cock, has been engrafted into the comb of another,

where it will grow ; and those Cocks have been fold as great curiosities.

Poultry are very liable to be tormented with lice, from which they are delivered by pepper.

There are many varieties of this species.

1. With a tuft of feathers on the head instead of a comb.

2. Without tails, found in Persia, and now in England. It has been observed, that those transported from England to Virginia have lost their tails.

3. With comb, wattles, and skin black ; in some the flesh too is black, in others delicately white : these inhabit Mosambique in Africa, the coast of Malabar, and of Siam in Asia.

4. With feathers so disunited, or separate, as to resemble hairs ; they are found in Japan.

5. With feathers curled up at the end, or frizzled ; found in Java and Japan.

6. The Bantam, a small race, with feathers on the legs and toes, so long as to encumber them in walking.

7. The Dorking, with two toes behind, common at Dorking in Surrey.

8. The Dwarf with short legs, and not much larger than a Pigeon.

9. The

9. The Paduan, which is very large, weighs from eight to ten pounds, it is long before they are compleatly feathered. Some have large heads, but these are remarkably stupid, and it is supposed to be the consequence of disease.

Species 2d. Motmot, plumage above dusky, beneath a reddish brown; the tail wedge-shaped, the outer tail feathers reddish. Inhabits Brazil and Guiana.

The 3d Species is the common Pheasant. The plumage is a reddish brown, the head and neck are green and gold, in some shades glossed with violet and blue. The tail is wedge-shaped. The cheeks are covered with a naked red spongy skin.

At breeding time over each ear they have a little tuft of feathers, something like horns, of a golden colour glossed with green; besides these they have other feathers with which they can shut the openings of their ears, which are very wide: the cock is furnished with spurs.

The Pheasant is scarcely so large as the common Cock, his wings are short, and his flight slow and heavy: his plumage is next in beauty to the Peacock's, and his carriage is as noble. The feathers of the neck and the bottom of the back

are margined at the end with black, in the shape of a heart, like some of the feathers in the Peacock's tail.

The plumage of the hen is not nearly so beautiful as that of the cock, for that is richly glossed with colours that seem to change with the situation of the eye.

The tail is composed of eighteen feathers, the two middlemost are the longest, and the toes are joined by a membrane, which is larger than is usual with those birds who throw dust among their feathers.

The Pheasant receives its name from the place where it was first found. Some Greeks, called Argonauts, who were sailing up the river Phasis, in order to arrive at Colchis (which is in Asia Minor, or Turkey in Asia,) first saw these beautiful birds, and brought them into Greece, (which is now Turkey in Europe.)

The Pheasants of that country, and of Mingrelia, are the largest and the most beautiful that are known: they are now distributed almost over the world, many are wild in Great Britain, particularly in the county of Norfolk.

They delight in woods, in low situations; they roost on the tops of trees, with their heads under one of their wings.

They

They are naturally very wild; in breeding time the cocks are discovered by the noise they make in flapping their wings, which may be heard at a great distance.

The hen Pheasant makes her nest without any assistance from the cock, at least when they are in a domestic state, and confined. She uses straw, leaves, &c. and though it be but coarsely made, she prefers it to any other that may have been provided for her; however neat and more curious it may be than her own, she would pull it to pieces, and with the materials make one for herself.

She hatches but once in a year in our climate, and lays about twelve eggs, one at the distance of two or three days from the other. They are much smaller than the eggs of a Hen, and the shell is as thin as the shell of a pigeon's egg.

She makes her nest on the ground like a Partridge, and sits twenty or twenty-five days; as soon as the little ones are hatched, they begin to run like the young of all gallinaceous birds.

When brought up tame they are fed at first with eggs boiled hard, with bread and lettuce leaves minced; they must not be permitted to drink water, or to walk out until the dew is off

the ground. It is necessary to feed them often, and with little at a time.

When long confined, they are very apt to be troubled with a kind of insect, which they get rid of by throwing the dust among their feathers.

At the age of three months, the young lose the feathers of their tails ; at that time they are sickly and apt to die ; they are much relieved by ants eggs.

The Pheasant is a stupid bird, easily taken in several kinds of snares, and is said to think itself out of all danger when its head is hidden.

When hunted by a pointer, as soon as it perceives the dog, it looks steadily at him, and gives the fowler an opportunity of shooting it with ease.

An artificial Pheasant, made of wood and painted, or a piece of red and white cloth, will entice him into a snare. Sometimes he is taken by a noose laid in the path in which he goes morning and evening to drink, and sometimes by a Hawk or a Falcon.

Pheasants are a very delicate food. Heliogabalus, a Roman emperor, had the extravagance to feed lions with them, which he kept confined.

A breed



A breed between the Pheasant and the common Hen has been procured, and it is said that they are a more delicate food than the true bred Pheasant.

Sometimes the hen Pheasant, like the Peahen, when it is old, and has done laying, will get the plumage of the male.

In an island in the Laggo Maggiore, in Milan, the Pheasants are compleatly imprisoned, their flight is too heavy and short to allow of their passing over the lake; when they attempt it, they fall on the water, and if not taken up are drowned.

There are several varieties of the common Pheasant.

One called the Ring Pheasant; it has a ring of pure white round the neck, and is found in some of the provinces of China, in Great Tartary, near the Caspian sea, the rivers Don and Wolga, and in the island of St. Helena.

Another variety is wholly white.

The Turkey Pheasant is said to be peculiar to the island of Java, the plumage seems to be a mixture of that of the Turkey and of the Pheasant; it has a bare red skin round the eyes.

The

The Argus is a fourth Species. The general plumage is a clay colour spotted with black, the face is red, on the back part of the head is a bluish crest.

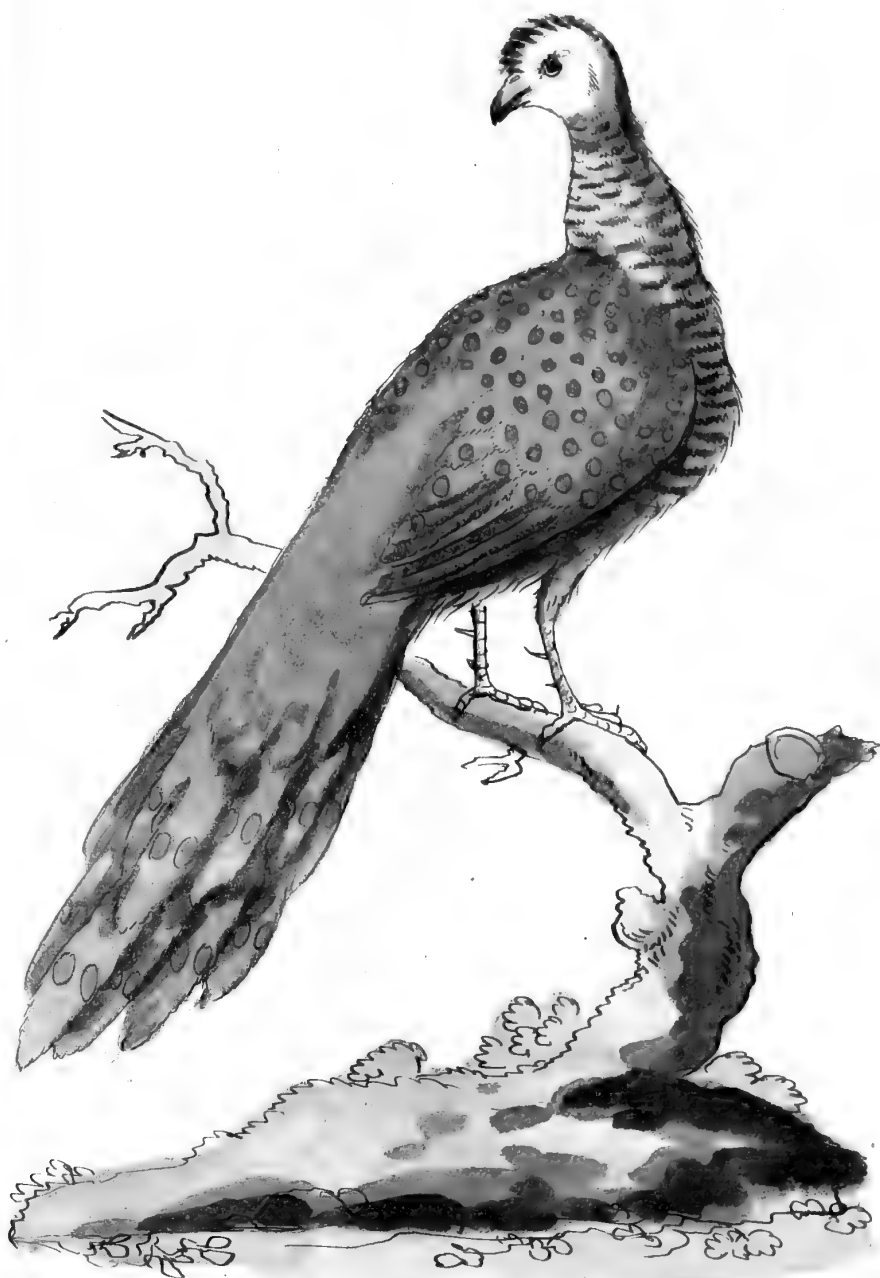
The skin round the eye is dusky, and it has black whiskers ; the fore part of the head and the throat are red, the wings are grey, spotted with moons or eyes. The tail is wedge-shaped, the same colour with the wings. The two middle tail feathers are three feet long, spotted with eyes or moons. The legs are furnished with spurs, and it is the size of a Turkey.

It inhabits China, and is not uncommon in the woods of Sumatra. It can seldom be kept alive for more than a month in confinement : and what is very singular, seems most at ease in the dark ; for then it will sometimes use its call, and seems quite contented, but when the light is let in, it appears quite stupid and melancholy.

The fifth Species is the Chinese or Golden Pheasant. It has a yellow crest, the breast is a rich crimson, the secondary feathers in the wings are blue, the tail is wedge-shaped.

It is furnished with spurs, the cheeks under the eyes are naked. The feathers on the back part of  
of

ORDER 5<sup>th</sup> Gallinae.  
Genus 62 Phasianus.



ARGUS PHEASANT.

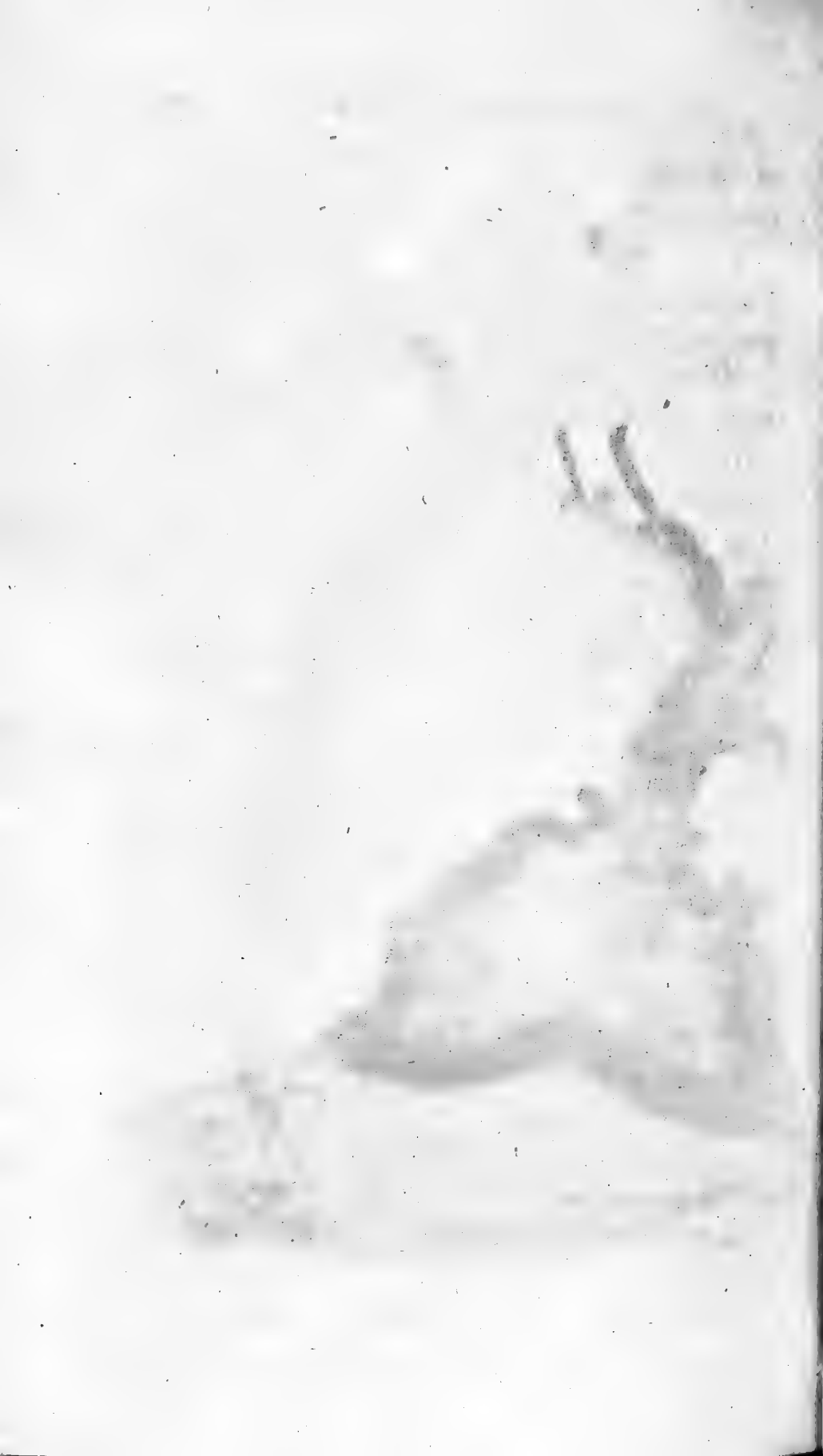


ORDER 5<sup>th</sup> Gallinae.  
Genus 62 Phasianus.



COCK GOLD PHEASANT.

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of the head are orange coloured, square at the ends, and crossed with black lines.

The plumage of this bird is so rich and beautiful, that it has been introduced into England, and breeds here very well.

He can at pleasure raise his beautiful and silky crest, and the feathers on the back of his head.

After the hens are about four years old, their plumage improves in beauty, and becomes more like that of the cock; when they are young it is so very plain, that they would scarcely be supposed to be of the same species. There have been instances when the hen has acquired such beautiful feathers, as greatly to resemble the cock; and this we see is not unfrequent with many of the Genera of the Gallinæ.

Hans Sloane kept a cock Gold Pheasant for fifteen years. With the common Pheasant it will produce a mixed breed.

The flesh is esteemed a greater delicacy than that of any other Pheasant, and the bird is so hardy, that in time it may become as frequent with us as the common Pheasant.

The sixth Species is called the Pencil'd Pheasant.

The plumage above is white, the crest and stomach are black, the tail is wedge-shaped.

The

## 40 THE NATURAL HISTORY

The temples are bare of feathers, and red; the male is furnished with spurs, the plumage of the female is grey.

The white feathers of this Pheasant are beautifully penciled with black; he is larger than either the common, or the Golden Pheasant. He inhabits China, and is bred in confinement in England.

Besides these there are some other Species, viz.

The Superb Pheasant, which is a most beautiful bird; it has a blue crest, the head and neck are green, on each side the neck are long feathers which stand out, and turn back; the shoulders are green spotted with white, and the wings are red.

The Hoctazin, or Crested Pheasant, inhabits Mexico, and feeds on ants, worms, several kinds of insects, and snakes.

The Paraqua. The wind-pipe in this Pheasant is of a very uncommon structure; they are found in many parts of South America, and at sun rise set up a very loud cry, not unlike the Word Paraqua, frequently repeated.

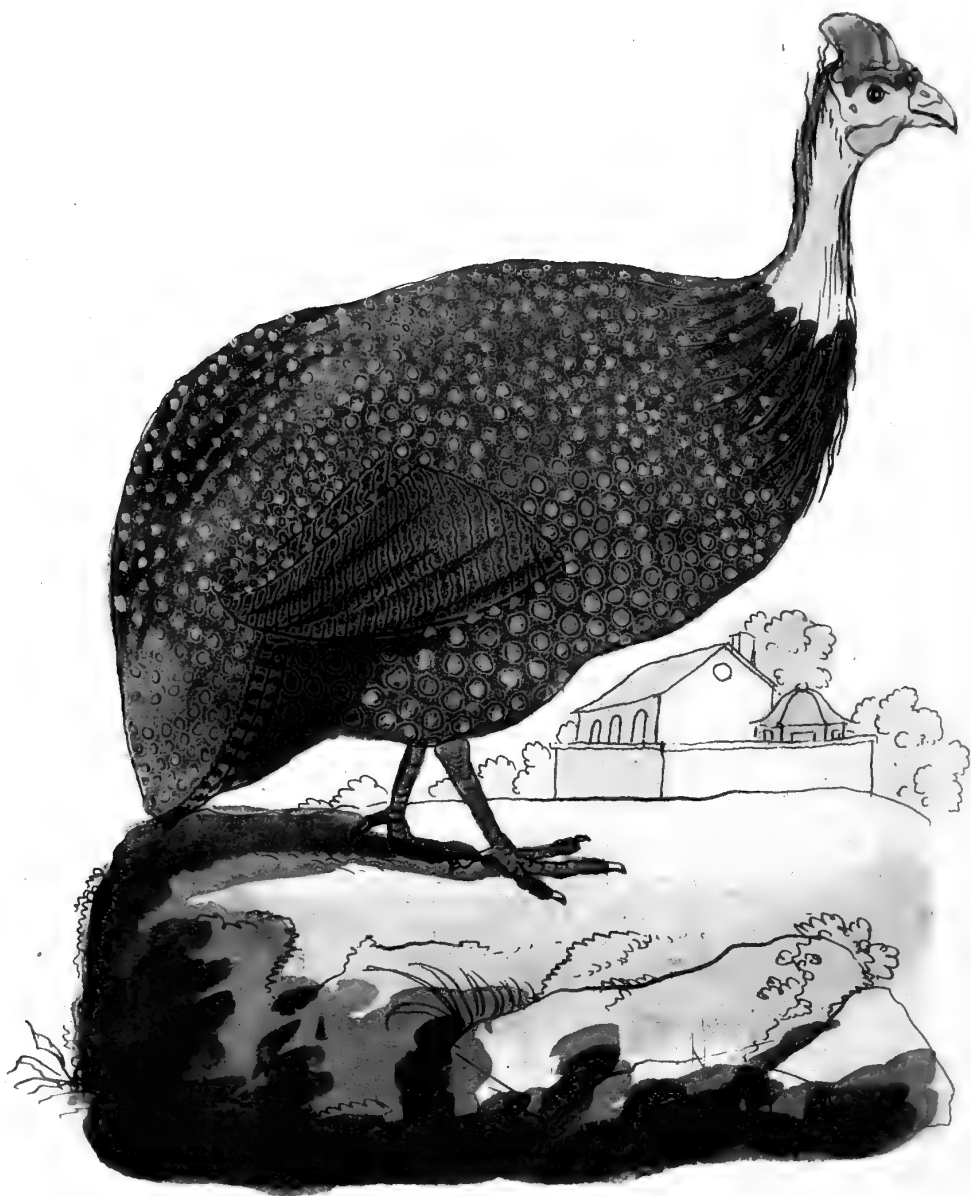
From the exertion which this requires, the eyes appear red and inflamed, and a small red skin is then seen on the breast which before was concealed,





ORDER 5<sup>th</sup> Gallinæ.

Genus 63 Numida.



GALENA, GUINEA FOWL or PINTADO.

cealed. They breed twice a year, and build on low branches or stumps of trees. They feed their young with worms, and small insects, whilst they are in the nest; afterwards they eat grain and grafs.

Their flesh is esteemed a delicacy, and they may be tamed.

Another species is called the Courier, because it is said to outrun the swiftest horse; it flies low.

This bird is found in Mexico, its plumage is white and tawny; the tail is long and green.

## GENUS 63.

## N U M I D A.

The head is furnished with a horn. The neck is compressed and naked, or only slightly beset with bristles.

It has wattles hanging from the cheeks.

The bill is furnished with a cere, in which the nostrils are lodged.

**T**HIS bird is called the Pintado, or Guinea Fowl. It comes originally from Africa, and may in some measure be tamed, it runs about, making a frequent and screaming noise; the feathers of the neck are turned upwards from the back.

back. The warty skin of the cock is said to be blue, that of the female red.

Though Guinea Fowls were first brought from Africa, yet they are now to be found both in Europe and in America, where they have been conveyed in consequence of our trade with Africa. Their plumage is very remarkable, the ground is a bluish or blackish grey, studded with an amazing number of white small round spots. Such at least are their feathers in a wild state, but as all domestic fowls and animals lose in part their original marks; we see many Guinea Fowls with white breasts, some entirely white, some of a faint bluish cast, and others part of whose feathers only are a clear white, and the rest spotted on a bluish or blackish ground.

The wings of this bird are short, and the tail falls like that of the Partridge, so that it seems rather hump-backed, but it appears so only from the form in which the feathers lie.

They are very quarrelsome birds, and generally make themselves masters of the poultry-yard; in their attacks they are so nimble, so violent, and so persevering, that they oftentimes beat a Turkey cock, though he be so much superior in size. They are besides of a very petulant and  
mis-

mischievous disposition, and frequently kill young Chickens.

Like other gallinaceous birds, they throw the dust with their feet amongst their feathers, in order to get rid of insects; they scratch the ground like Poultry, and in Africa go in flocks, but here they frequently separate in pairs.

In the Isle of Mayo, one of the Cape de Verd islands, they go in flocks of two or three hundred. The islanders hunt them with dogs; they fly heavily, but run very fast, and roost in high trees.

The hen lays a great number of eggs, and they are much nicer than those of a common Hen, but she is so wild, that in a domestic state she makes a very indifferent nurse.

The young Guinea Fowl therefore are best reared under a common Hen. They require great care in bringing up, but this depends much on the season, for they must be preserved from the wet, the cold, and the dew, and yet have the opportunity of providing themselves with insect food.

Their eggs are smaller, and more round than those of the common Hen, of a reddish white colour, freckled with small spots. The shell is remarkably

markably thick, the eggs require to be sat upon a month.

Guinea Fowl feed very much upon worms, grasshoppers, and various insects. They are easily disturbed when at roost, and from the noise they make are almost as good night-watches as dogs or geese.

There is another Species called the Mitred Pintado, it is rather uncommon, and inhabits Madagascar and Guinea.

A third Species is called the Crested Pintado; it is found in Africa, near Sierra Leon, and has a large roundish black crest. It may be doubted whether it strictly belongs to the Numida, as it has no horn.

## GENUS 64. FINAMOU.

This Genus is not mentioned by Linnæus.

The bill is long and blunt at the end, the nostrils are placed in the middle, and the gape is wide.

The sides of the head and throat are not well furnished with feathers.

The tail is very short, often hid by the upper coverts.

The toe behind is short and useless in walking, and the claws are hollowed beneath.

The female is larger than the male.

THE Finamous pass the night perched upon trees, and sometimes sit upon them part of the day; but they only rest upon the lower branches, and perhaps it is necessity, and not inclination, that makes them avoid roosting upon the ground.

In America, where only the Finamous are found, Partridges, and even many web-footed birds, which with us confine themselves to the ground, roost there in trees; probably on account of the beasts of prey, the serpents, or the innumerable swarms of ants which infest that country, and would destroy both them and their young.

The Finamou's flesh is esteemed a delicacy, though some parts are thought to taste bitter, on account of the fruits on which they feed.

## 46 THE NATURAL HISTORY

They are very fond of wild cherries, and frequently swallow them whole.

Though in general they roost on trees, yet they lay their eggs in a hole in the ground, which they line with leaves, or dried grafs; they breed twice a year, laying twelve or fifteen eggs.

Their flight is short and heavy, but they run very swiftly.

They go in flocks, and are seldom seen alone, or even in pairs. They are frequently calling one another, especially morning and evening; their cry is low, trembling, and mournful, and often betrays them to the fowler.

Of these birds there are several Species.

First, The Great Finamou. The top of the head is a reddish brown, the body a greyish olive brown, upper part of the back, wing coverts, and tail, marked with dusky spots.

The female lays fifteen eggs of a beautiful green, the size of a Hen's. She makes her nest on the ground, near the stump of a tree, and if she thinks it is discovered, she rolls the eggs to another place at some distance. The young follow their parent as soon as they are hatched, and hide themselves on the first apprehension of danger.

The



The Cinereous Finamou is less than the former Species, and not so common.

The Variegated Finamou is less than the first Species, it inhabits Guiana, and lays ten or twelve eggs of a lilac colour.

The Little Finamou is likewise found in Guiana; it builds its nest in the low forks of trees, it is made of leaves, and she lays from three to six eggs, nearly round, and of a white colour.

Its flesh is much esteemed.

## GENUS 65.

## T E T R A O.

Has a naked and spongy spot near the eyes.

First Division, G R O U S, with feathers on their legs.

**S**PECIES 1st. The Wood Grouse. The legs are feathered, the edges of the toes are jagged, the tail is round; there is a white spot at the setting on of each wing.

The head and neck are ash colour, marked with narrow blackish lines across; the upper part  
of

of the body and wings brown, with blackish lines; the breast a glossy blackish green. The tail has eighteen feathers, marked on each side with a few spots of white.

It inhabits Germany, France, the Alps, and most of the woody and marshy parts of Europe, Asia, and of America.

The Wood Grouse is as large as a small Turkey; the wings, when extended, are four feet across, and it weighs from ten to twelve pounds.

In England it is very scarce, in mild countries it inhabits woods, in high situations; in colder climates it frequents those that are more sheltered.

These birds scratch the ground like Poultry, and their gizzards contain many little stones; when they feed chiefly upon juniper berries, their flesh has a peculiar taste, rather bitter and unpleasant.

They feed upon a great variety of vegetables, upon the leaves and buds of pines, junipers, cedars, willows, birch, white poplar, hazle, brambles, thistles, the leaves and blossoms of French wheat, vetches, millfoil, dandelion, clover, &c. especially whilst they are tender, for when the seeds begin to ripen, they eat the leaves. They feed

feed too on blackberries, beech mast, and ants eggs.

The female is less than the male, and her plumage not so dark, yet the colours are more varied, and not less beautiful.

The breeding season begins about the latter end of March: then the cock is generally seen on some large pine tree, with his tail raised and spread in a circle, like a Turkey cock's; his wings trailing, his neck stretched forward, and the feathers of the head bristled; he makes a loud, and very singular noise, by which he calls the hens; they immediately answer, and come to the tree where he is perched. At other times the Wood Grouse is so shy that it is almost impossible to come near him. Then he is so little on his guard, that he may easily be shot. The females lay, as some say, from five to nine, but according to others from eight to sixteen eggs; they are larger than a Hen's, and white, spotted with yellow. These eggs are placed on moss, in a dry place. The female sits and is never relieved by the male, when she leaves her nest for food, she carefully covers the eggs with leaves.

The little ones run about as soon as they are hatched, and sometimes indeed with the shells on their backs; the mother leads them with great

care and affection, where they may find ant's eggs and blackberries, and they do not separate until the next spring.

It is said that many of the Wood Grouse are destroyed by birds of prey. They abound in the pine forests of Russia and of Siberia, and are sometimes sent in the winter with white Hares and Ptarmigans, as presents to London; and notwithstanding the distance, from the coldness of the winters, they sometimes arrive so as to be eatable.

The second species is called the Black Cock; it has feathers on its legs, a forked tail, the secondary feathers in the wings are white towards the base.

There are eighteen feathers in its tail, the four outer feathers on each side are longer, and bend outwards; the ten middle feathers are shorter, and equal in length to each other. The feathers under the tail, and the inner coverts of the wings, are of a pure white. There is a white spot at the fitting on of each wing, the rest of the feathers are a full black, glossed with blue.

It inhabits the heaths, the woods, and the birch forests of the colder parts of Europe, and of Siberia in Asia; it is found in Scotland, in the northern parts of England, and in Wales.

The

The Black Cocks feed on the buds and the catkins, (or blossoms of birch-trees,) and on those of the Siberian poplar, which give a fine flavour to their flesh. They are fond of whortleberries, bilberries, and the tops of heath; and feed their young with gnats. Peas and cherries are fatal to them; and it is said that the hen, whilst she is laying, loses the sense of smelling.

The female weighs but two pounds, her tail is short, and slightly forked, and her colours less dark.

The wings of the Black Cock are short, and it flies heavily.

The openings of the ears are wide.

They often pass two months in the winter under the snow, some say without eating, and in a torpid state, like bats and dormice; others say, that they form walks beneath the snow.

In breeding time the males assemble together in a morning, sometimes to the number of one hundred, in a high situation, retired, and sheltered with broom or heath; there they fight furiously: the conquerors then perched on a tree, with sparkling eyes, their cheeks swelled, their feathers bristling, and flapping their wings, crow to the females, who immediately answer, and come towards them.

The females lay fix or seven eggs on the ground; in about five or six weeks the young begin to fly; they leave their parents the beginning of winter, and keep in flocks until the spring.

They are often taken by fowlers, who imitate their call, and when they are older they are hunted by falcons.

In Poland artificial birds are used, which are made up very much like the Black Cock; they collect together about these, and beginning to fight, they soon become so deeply engaged, as to give the fowler an opportunity of shooting them.

In Lapland they were formerly shot with arrows.

Mr. Pennant says, that now they are taken in Siberia in this manner:—In the open birch forests a number of poles are placed horizontally on forked sticks, and small bundles of corn are fastened to these poles—at a little distance are set tall baskets, of the shape of a sugar loaf, the widest and open part uppermost. Just within the top of the basket, is placed a flat round piece of wood, which is nicely balanced by an axis, or pin, that passes all across it, so that it will play very readily, and suffer either side on the least touch to drop, and afterwards to return again to its

its first situation. The Black Grouse are soon enticed by the corn on the poles, and after they have eaten a little, they fly to the baskets, and attempt to settle on the tops; the round piece of wood with their weight falls sideways, and they drop into the basket, which is sometimes found half full of them.

The third species is the Spotted Grouse. The legs are feathered, the tail feathers are black, tipped with brownish red; it has a white spot before and behind each eye.

It inhabits Canada, and the northern parts of America.

In summer they feed on berries, and their flesh is very delicate.

In the winter they eat juniper berries, and the shoots and cones of the spruce fir, which gives them a disagreeable flavour.

In that season they are furnished with double feathers, at the approach of the winter's cold, they either moult, or a soft downy feather grows out of the base of each of the other feathers, to preserve them the better from the severity of the weather.

They make their nest on the ground, and lay five eggs.

When they are much disturbed, they fly on trees, and if the fowler has a dog, they attend so much to him, that they may be shot one after another, without once attempting to fly away. They are very unsuspecting birds, and will sometimes suffer themselves to be knocked down with a stick, or caught by a noose at the end of a pole. In the country where they are found, the inhabitants kill a great many at the beginning of winter; and the cold weather freezes them, so that they will keep perfectly sweet until the spring; before they are dressed, they are thrown into cold water, which thaws them.

The fourth species is the Ptarmigan. The legs and toes are warmly clothed with a thick and long coat of soft white feathers, like the fur on the feet of the hare.

The quill feathers are white, the outer tail feathers black, except at the points, where they are white. The two middle tail feathers ash-coloured in summer, and white in winter.

In the winter they are white, except a black line in the male between the bill and the eye, and the shafts of the seven first quill feathers, which continue black.

They .



They inhabit the mountainous parts of Europe, are common in the northern parts as far as Greenland; they are found in the Highlands of Scotland, in the mountains of Cumberland, and in the Alps; they feed on the buds of trees, on the shoots of pines, dwarf birch, heath, fruits, berries, and liverwort.

They are seldom silent as they walk in the woods, and when alarmed make a noise like a loud laughing.

Their claws are broad and flat, and very fit for digging.

Against winter they moult, and their new feathers are white; by the kind provision of that good Being, who extends his care over all his works, every feather, except those of the wings and of the tail, become double; a downy feather shoots out from the base of each of the others, which helps to keep them warm; and the white appearance of their feathers, so much like the snow, prevents their being so easily discovered by Eagles, Owls, and other birds of prey.

At the latter end of February they put on their summer dress, that is, they shed these white and double feathers, and their brown and orange feathers come in their place. The feathers on their stomachs are always white.

## 26 THE NATURAL HISTORY

In the winter they burrow under the snow, and lie there together in great numbers to keep themselves warm; they have very large walks beneath, and their nails, or claws, are long, broad, and hollow; this enables them to form the lodgers, and the walks there. Every morning they fly first upwards, to shake the snow from their feet and wings. They feed in the morning and in the evening, and in the middle of the day they bask in the sun.

In the beginning of October they get together in flocks of two hundred among the willows, and feed upon their tops. In summer they live on berries, and frequent rocks, perching upon grey stones.

They are naturally not very wild, indeed they may be driven like poultry, and when frightened so as to rise from the ground, they make only a short circuit like pigeons. They keep together in small flocks, and shelter themselves not among the heath, but among stones.

The fowlers, by imitating the cry of a Hawk, frighten them so that they instantly stand still.

If the female be killed, the male shews such fondness for her, that he can scarcely be driven from her body.

They are taken in nets at Hudson's Bay.

The

The Laplanders make a hedge with the boughs of birch-trees, and leave some openings in which they place nooses; the birds come to feed on the buds, and when they attempt to go through the openings they are caught.

The Greenlanders take them with nooses tied to a long line, which is carried between two men, who contrive to draw these nooses over their heads.

The Pinnated Grouse is the 5th species. Its legs are covered with feathers, on each side of the neck is a tuft of five feathers; these tufts a little resemble wings.

The tufts which distinguish this species are very near the back part of the head, and can be raised or dropped at pleasure.

When frightened, the Pinnated Grouse spreads them out like wings, and they probably assist him both in running and flying, for his wings are very short.

On the head there is a small crest, the tail is barred with faint brown and black.

The hen bird is very much like the cock, except that it has not these tufts.

They inhabit Virginia, and as far north as Hudson's Bay.

## 58 THE NATURAL HISTORY

They are supposed to lay many eggs, as they are seen in families of twenty-four or twenty-five, old and young together.

In September and October they collect in flocks of two hundred or more, and as soon as the snow falls, they frequent places where pines grow.

The male crows for half an hour before day break, and at that time raises his tuft upright. More males are killed than females, probably their noise discovers them to the sportsmen.

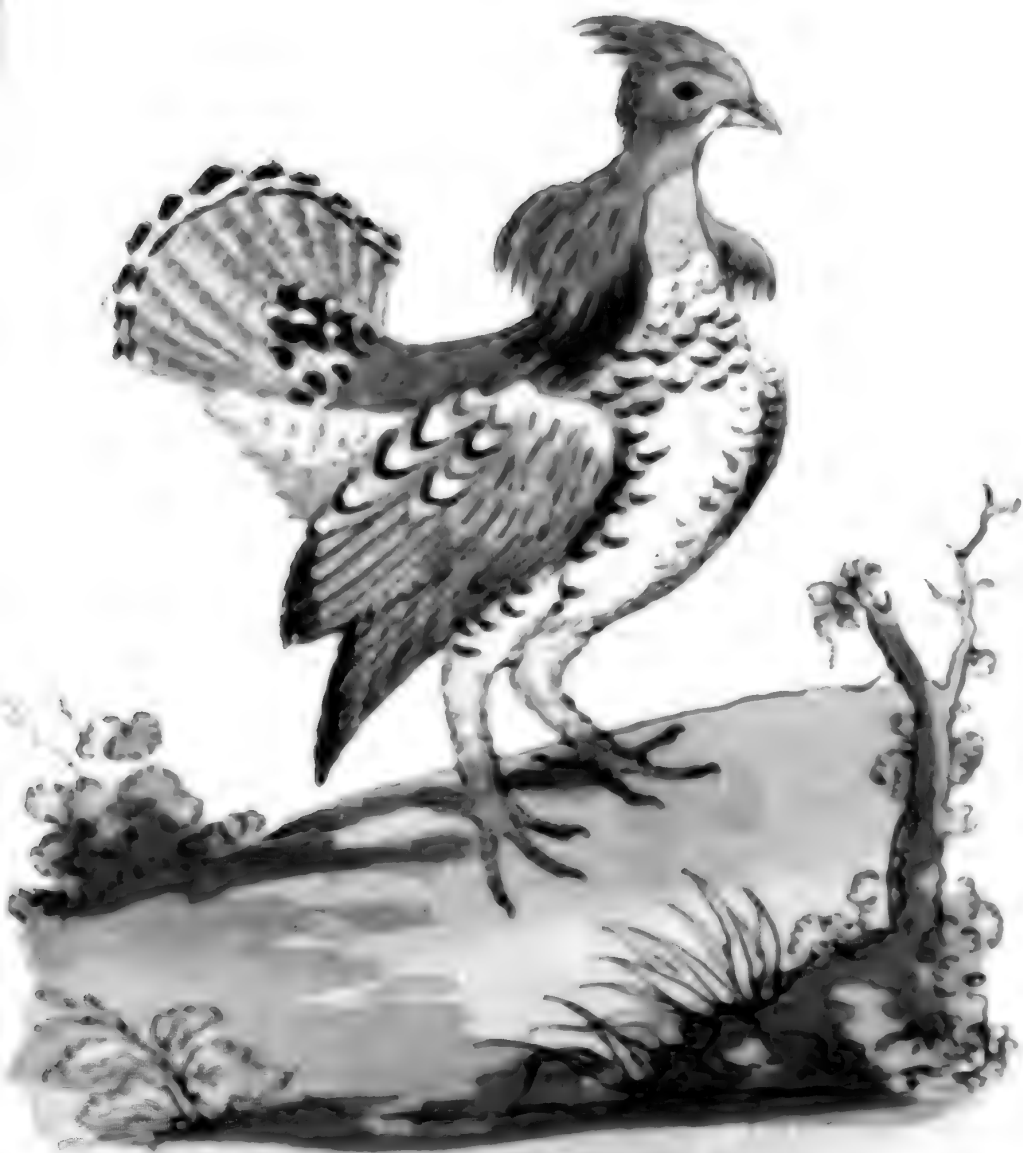
The sixth species is the Ruffed Heathcock. The legs are feathered, and it has a ruff on the neck behind.

There is a crest on its head, and its ruff is barred with black. The tail is large, and often spread like a fan; it is barred with waving lines of black, and tipped with white. The female has neither crest or ruff.

The Ruffed Heathcock is a fine bird, he spreads his tail like a Turkey, raises the feathers of his ruff, and swells his breast like a Pouting Pigeon: his step is slow, and his carriage majestic. He sometimes stands upon a branch of a decayed tree, and claps his wings, at first slowly, afterwards faster, and by degrees very quickly: he makes a  
noise

ORDER 3<sup>d</sup>. Gallinae.

Genus 63. Tetrao.



RUFFED Grouse.



noise like a drum, or distant thunder, and may be heard half a mile off.

In this manner these birds amuse themselves about nine in the morning, and four in the afternoon.

They feed chiefly on berries, and their flesh is very delicate eating. They breed once a year, and lay twelve or fourteen eggs, in a nest made of leaves, either at the root of a tree, or close by a tree that is fallen. The young, when they are but a few days old, hide themselves so artfully, among the leaves, that they cannot easily be found. They do not separate until the following spring; their food is ants and small worms.

Though this bird hatches so many young, and sits twice a year, yet they are prevented from increasing too fast by Hawks, and other birds of prey, which destroy many of them.

The female bird, in order to divert the attention of those who come near its nest, will flutter before them, as though lame, until she has drawn them to a distance.

This species is found in Canada, and several parts of North America.

The eighth species, or Shoulder Knot Grouse, has feather'd legs.

The upper part of the breast is blackish and grey; and forms a band which joins on each side a tuft of long black feathers, glossed with blue, at the setting on of the wings.

It inhabits Hudson's Bay; the flesh is white but rather dry, yet when well cooked is not unpleasant eating.

In winter birds of this species feed on juniper; in summer on gooseberries, raspberries, cranberries, and currants; and the young follow the hen like Chickens.

The ninth species is called the Hazel Grouse. The legs are feathered half way down, the tail feathers are ash-colour spotted with black, and have a bar of black, except the two in the middle, or, as some say, the four middle tail feathers, which are barred with red.

It inhabits the birch and hazel woods of Europe, and feeds on berries, the tops of juniper, buds of birch, fir, and other evergreens. When frightened it raises the feathers upon its head.

The male may be distinguished from the female by a black spot under its throat. They will not bear confinement, but die soon after they are taken.

The



The female lays from twelve to fifteen or twenty eggs, about the size of a Pigeon's, upon the ground, at the foot of a hazel-tree, or great mountain fern, and sits three weeks. It is said too (but it seems very extraordinary) that seldom more than seven or eight chickens, or young ones, are hatched. As soon as they are able to procure their own food, their parents drive them away, always reserving a certain district for themselves.

When they are disturbed they fly into trees, and perch upon the low branches near the body; there they will wait very patiently for a long time; but the fowlers concealing themselves, and imitating the voice of these birds by a pipe, often draw them into their nets, or some other snare.

Their flesh is esteemed a great delicacy.

There are several other species of Grouse with feathered legs.

In one the male has a black spot between the bill and the eye, which in the female is scarcely seen. These are found in the northern parts of Europe, in woods and marshy lands. They change their feathers at the approach of winter. These feathers were esteemed very valuable and formerly

## 62 THE NATURAL HISTORY

formerly were sold. The Greenlanders make comfortable shirts of their skins, placing their feathers on the inside next the body. The women use the black feathers of the tail as ornaments in their head dresses. They catch these birds in nooses, hung to a line, which is carried by two men, one at each end, who drop the nooses round the necks of these poor unsuspecting birds. They are sometimes knocked down with stones, and sometimes shot with guns.

When the female is killed, the male is so fond that he will seldom be driven from her body.

The Greenlanders eat them sometimes dressed, and sometimes raw, when they are nearly putrid, with the blubber or the fat of seals.

The intestines they consider as a great delicacy, and mix them with train oil and berries.

Another species called the White Grouse, or White Partridge, is found at Hudson's Bay; it is marked with large spots of white and dull orange; lives in flocks in winter, and feeds on the tops of willows. They have from nine to eleven young. They suffer themselves to be driven under nets, and many thousands are taken that way every winter.

The

The Red Grouse (another species) is frequent on the heaths and wastes of the northern parts of England. They pair in spring, lay from six to ten eggs. The young follow their parents all summer; in winter collect in flocks of forty or fifty, but never descend into the plains.

They are very fearful, and feed on berries and the tops of heath.

In the Sand Grouse the two middle feathers of the tail are pointed, and yellowish, crossed with brown lines; in the tail are sixteen feathers; on each leg it has a spur, which turns inward and is pointed. In summer they abound in Astrachan, in winter in Persia. They pair in June, and drink much water, and frequent consequently the neighbourhood of those spots where it may be found. To the thirsty traveller they are welcome birds, because they assure him that water is near. They go to it three times a day, and drink so eagerly as not to regard the fowler, who takes those opportunities of shooting them, for at other times they are very shy.

The Second Division of the STETRAO has  
naked legs.

Species 10. of Linnæus. The Francolin. Its legs are without feathers, and furnished with spurs; the stomach and throat are black; the tail is wedge-shaped.

The Francolin is a scarce bird, and found only in warm countries, as Spain, Italy, Sicily, and some of the islands in the Mediterranean sea; in Egypt, and in some parts of Asia.

Their flesh is so delicate a food, that in many places laws have been made to preserve them; and it is said that the name of Francolin was given to them as expressing the freedom which they enjoy in consequence of these laws.

They feed on grain, very much like a Partridge, and may be brought up tame in aviaries; but they must have a little box to retire into, and some sand and stones should be scattered in their partition, and then they will breed in confinement. They have a loud cry, or whistle, which may be heard to a considerable distance; and their plumage is very beautiful. the feathers round the neck are of a most pleasing orange colour.

Species

## Species 11. The Pin-tail Grouse.

Its legs before are covered with short downy white feathers; the hind toe is very short; the two middle feathers of the tail are much longer than the rest, and pointed at the ends. There is a black circle round each eye passing in a streak behind the head; the chin and throat are black; the lower part of the neck and breast orange, bounded above and below with a black line. The quill feathers are ash-colour, the coverts rust-colour, margined with white; the tail is wedge-shaped, clay-colour, with dusky stripes; the tail feathers white at the point, except the middle feathers, which, where they exceed the rest in length, are black.

It inhabits the warmer parts of Europe, viz. the southern parts of France, Spain, and Italy; and Barbary and Senegal in Africa, and many parts of Asia. The male is very beautiful.

At Aleppo they are found in all seasons: they come in prodigious numbers from the deserts of Arabia and Syria in May and June, and such quantities have been caught at that time with once drawing the net, as to load an ass; but they are far from being delicate food, their flesh is hard and dry.

The

The Greek Partridge's legs are red, naked, and without spurs, and the beak too is red; the throat is white, with a black bar spotted with white.

The Greek or Red Partridge is found in some of the mountainous and temperate parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa, but not in England, or in many parts of Germany; at least they are not common in England: some few have been killed, but they were probably such as have been turned out of aviaries or menageries in order to breed.

A single pair was brought into the island Nansio, which is in the Archipelago, between Europe and Asia, and they increased so fast, that the inhabitants were upon the point of abandoning the island; and now there are such numbers, that they are obliged to destroy thousands of eggs about Easter, lest the young should consume their harvest.

In summer they frequent mountains upon which there is much heath and brushwood. In winter they shelter themselves under rocks, and are not easily roused.

Their food is grass, grain, caterpillars, ants eggs, snails, and other insects.

They fly heavily and with difficulty, and may be known by the noise which they make with their

their wings when they rise ; if they are surpris'd upon rocks or mountains, they endeavour instantly to fly down the precipices ; and if they are pursu'd there, they attempt to regain the summit. On plains they fly strait forwards, and if they are followed closely they take shelter sometimes in rabbit holes, sometimes in woods, and even perch upon trees.

It is very difficult to rear them in a domestic state : they require more care than young Pheasants, and, languishing for their liberty, often pine and die, especially when the feathers begin to grow upon their heads. Yet in the island of Scio in the Archipelago, there are numerous flocks that are so far tamed, that they will come when they are called ; they go out in the morning into the fields to feed, and one person has the care of several flocks ; he brings them back at night, and they come when they are whistled to.

Mr. Buffon saw a man in Provence, which is in the south of France, who had a flock. They came when he called them ; he took some in his hand, warmed them in his bosom, and then sent them away to their companions.

Burbequius, when he was in Turkey, had a number of these Partridges ; they were so troublesome to him in standing at his feet, and picking  
ing

ing the dust out of his velvet slippers, that he shut them up in a room, where they became very fat, and died.

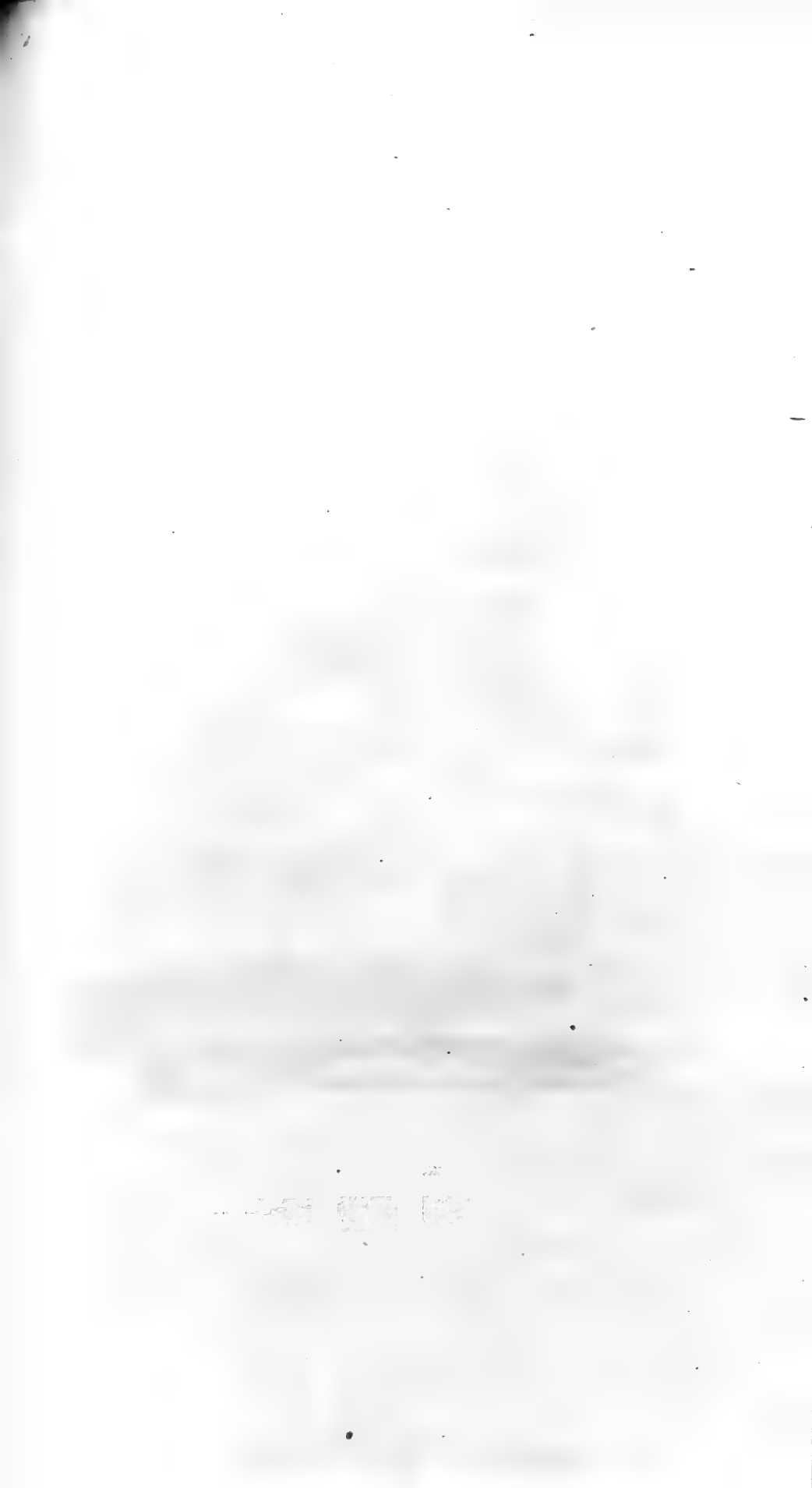
In Chios, an island in the Archipelago, every countryman almost has a flock; they follow him into the fields, and in the evening return. One reason why they are so fond of their keepers is, that as soon as they were hatched, they frequently warmed them in their bosoms, and fed them from their mouths; but they are very careful to house them every night, for if they omit it two or three times, the Partridges forget them and become wild.

They frequent rocky and mountainous parts, but come down in the plains in May to breed; they lay sixteen or eighteen eggs, on the bare ground, which are esteemed very delicate food, and it is said that the white does not harden in boiling.

They differ in this respect from the common Partridges, that they sometimes perch on trees, and are seen in flocks, but amongst common Partridges the covey consists only of those which were hatched together. They use the same artifice as the Lapwings to deceive the fowler, by counterfeiting lameness.

In





ORDER 5<sup>th</sup> Gallinae.  
Genus 6<sup>th</sup> Tetrao.



PARTDRIDGE.

In the island of Cyprus they are sometimes barbarously employed to fight against one another, as the common Cocks are sometimes by the cruel and thoughtless part of mankind amongst us.

The common Partridges legs are naked, and furnished with spurs, (the legs of the female has no spurs.)

It has a naked red spot behind and beneath each eye.

The breast is brown, on the male's is a broad mark of a deep orange-colour, in the form of a horse-shoe.

The tail feathers are of a rust-colour, eighteen in number, and the six outmost on each side are tipped with white.

It lives in the temperate parts of Europe, and of Russia, but is not found in Norway or Lapland, or perhaps so far to the south-east as Turkey in Europe. It frequents fields, and in the winter makes burrows under the snow, with breathing holes at each end. It is found too in Asia, even beyond the Lake Baikal.

The common Partridges feed on green corn, various plants, and almost all kinds of grain, but the eggs of ants is their favourite food. They pair early in the spring, in March or April, and  
are

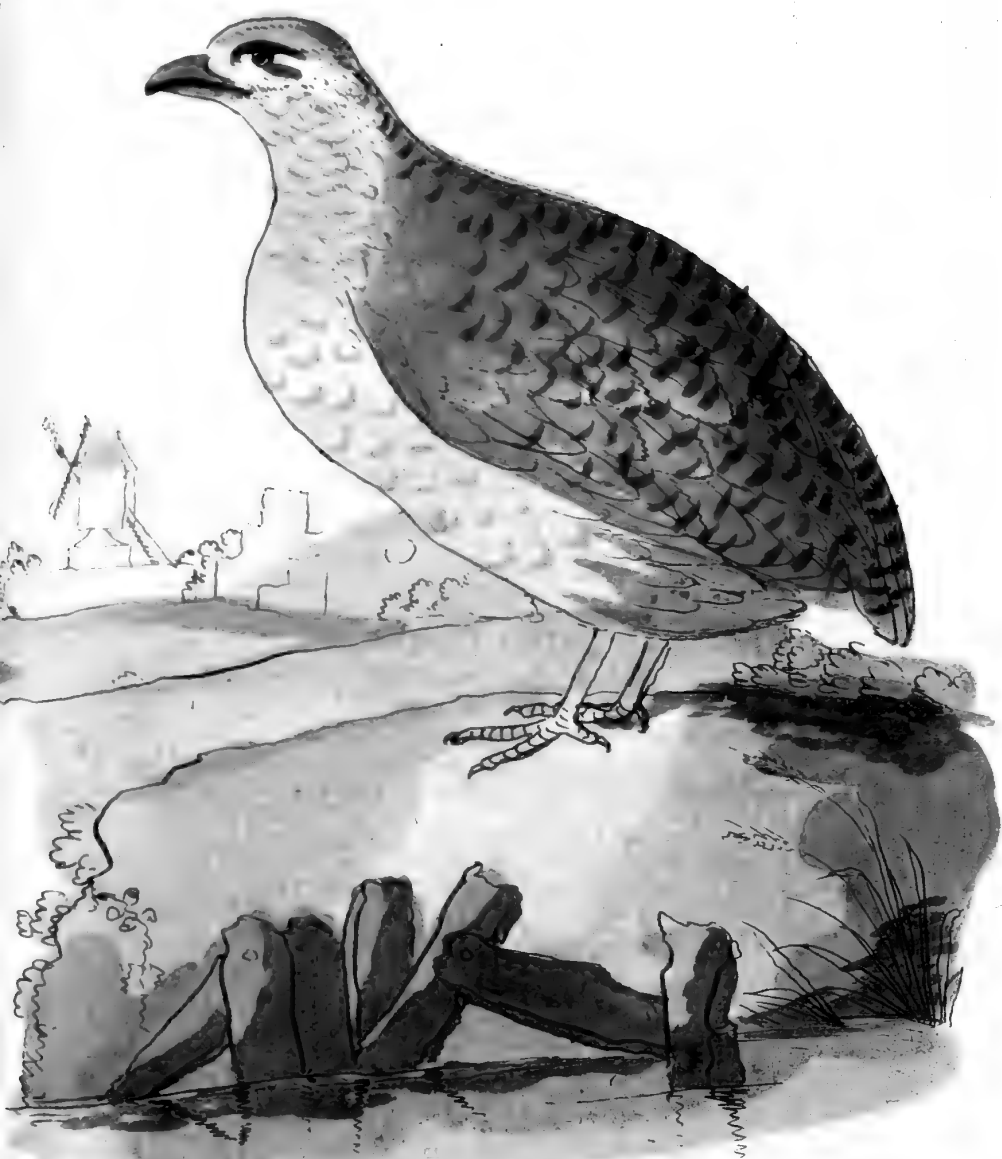
are very constant to each other ; in May or June they lay, their nests are made with very little care with grass or straw, or a few leaves collected together, oftentimes in the hollow left by the foot of a horse or cow. The female lays generally from fifteen to twenty eggs. She is never relieved whilst sitting by the male ; during this confinement, which is about three weeks, she loses most of the feathers from her breast ; she sits very close, and never leaves the nest without covering the eggs with leaves or grass. The male bird is always near, and ready to accompany his partner when she goes in search of food.

The young ones run about the moment they are hatched, occasionally with part of the shell upon their backs.

It sometimes happens that the young of Partridges, of Turkeys, of common Poultry, and of Pigeons, about the time they should be hatched, are found dead, their feathers sticking to the inside of the shell ; this, it is said, may be prevented by putting the eggs into water slightly warm, for about five or six minutes ; perhaps the moisture may pass through the pores of the shell, and help to loosen the feathers.

The male assists the female in the care of the young, shews them what is proper for their food,

ORDER 5<sup>th</sup> Gallinae.  
Genus 65 Tetrao.



QUAIL.



and scratches the ground for worms, for insects, and for grain.

When a dog has found a covey, and pursues it earnestly, the old cock Partridge has been seen to turn again beating with his wings, as though it were his intention to attack the dog; sometimes too he will counterfeit lameness, and limp, and trail his wings just before the dog or the fowler, in order to mislead them.

The female always flies in another direction, and when she is got to some distance, runs back silently along the furrow, and assembles her young, which were lying still, squat upon the ground, among the grass and leaves. She soon collects them together, and leads them very silently to a great distance, before the fowler and the dog, who have been pursuing the male bird, can return.

There are more male than female Partridges; on this account methods have been attempted of taking only the seemingly unnecessary males. One method is to use a hen Partridge as a decoy bird; the males will come at her call into the traps that are set for them, and it is said that they are drawn so powerfully by her cry, as to fly even upon the roofs of houses, or the shoulders of the fowler.

Some-

Sometimes they are taken in a net called a tunnel ; they are occasionally driven into it by a man covered with the skin of a cow, and disguised as much as possible like that animal.

The Grey, or common Partridge, is of a gentle disposition ; each family lives together in a covey, or little flock, until breeding time. When part of a hatch has not succeeded, or if a covey has been in part destroyed by birds of prey or other accidents, several of these smaller families will join together, and form a larger company than any single family. They delight in corn-fields, and seldom take shelter in the woods unless pursued.

The legs of young Partridges at first are yellow, they next become whitish, afterwards brown, and in Partridges of three or four years old black. Their age too may in some measure be known by the last feather in the wings, after the first moulting it is pointed, the year following it becomes round. Little Partridges feed first upon ants eggs and little insects ; it is with some difficulty that they are made to eat grain : they seem to prefer lettuce, endive, pimpernel, fowthistle, groundsel, and the points of wheat whilst it is green.

At the age of three months the red skin under the eyes begins to appear ; this is a sickly time  
with



with them, and they sometimes die. Partridges will not breed in confinement, but the young ones may be reared by putting the eggs under a Hen. They require great care, and are brought up with difficulty. This bird is very delicate food.

Willoughby, who has written upon birds, mentions a person in Suffex who had succeeded in making a covey of Partridges so tame, that he drove them to London, although their wings were grown, and they might have flown if they had tried.

There are several varieties of the common Partridge, some intirely white with red pupils to the eye, some of a pale cream colour, some white beneath, with a white collar round the neck, and others wholly of a dun colour; these varieties however are not very frequent.

The Partridge is said to live from twelve to fifteen years.

There is a Partridge in America called the Virginia Partridge, which perches on trees, and frequents woody situations.

Its legs are naked, it has a black spot above and below the eyes, and a dusky line upon the head; the cheeks and throat are white, bounded by a line of black.

These Partridges breed very fast about the beginning of May, and are often seen in coveys of more than twenty.

Early in June they collect in great flocks, frequenting orchards; they feed much upon buck wheat, which makes them fat, they are then very delicate food.

At the approach of winter they migrate into the southern provinces of North America, and they have lately been introduced into Jamaica, where they increase very considerably.

The Maryland Partridge has white eyebrows, and the back part of the head white, spotted with black.

In its habits or manners it very much resembles the Virginia Partridge; it multiplies very fast, laying from twenty to twenty-five eggs.

Towards winter they grow tame; they come into farm-yard in flocks of three or four dozen, for the loose grain, and frequent the high roads for what they can find there to eat.

The Crested Quail, another species of the Tetrao Genus, has a narrow crest on its head, an inch in length. It inhabits Guiana and Mexico.

The

The Chinese Quail is a very small species, the body is beautifully spotted with grey, the throat is black, the cheeks and fore part of the neck white. They are found in China, and the Phillipine islands. The Chinese use them to keep their hands warm in winter ; and the Europeans often buy them to make pies with on their voyage home from China.

There is a species called the Pintado Partridge, because it makes a noise like the Pintado, or Guinea Fowl ; it perches on trees, and is found in Madagascar.

The Damascus Partridge, another species, with yellow legs, and a bill longer than the common Partridge, though it be a smaller bird, has often been seen passing through France in large flocks ; one hundred and fifty or two hundred were stopped a whole day in their passage by a call-bird of the common species, which they very much resemble.

The Pearl Partridge is another species, inhabits China, and is used by the Chinese, like others of this genus, to keep their hands warm in winter.

The common Quail. The legs are naked, the body spotted with grey, the eyebrows are white, the tail has twelve feathers barred with black, and pale brownish red.

The common Quails abound in the southern parts of Europe, they are not found further north than Sweden, and then only in the month of May. In the south of Russia, and the neighbourhood of the river Dnieper, about the time of their migration, they are so numerous as to be taken by thousands, and sent to Petersburg and Muscovy in casks. They are found from the Cape of Good Hope to Sweden, and from Russia to China, in New Zealand, and even in Falkland's Island.

The Quail is less than the Partridge, and has not that mark on the breast like a horseshoe, which is seen on Partridges; their eggs are smaller, their flesh is fatter, they are shorter lived, and have not the same art in escaping from the fowler, neither do they associate together except at the seasons when they migrate from one climate to another; when they are confined together they sometimes fight and destroy one another.

The inclination to migrate seems implanted in them by nature, for there have been instances of Quails which were brought up tame, and had been confined in cages for four years, yet twice  
in

in the year, in April and September, (which were the usual times of their coming to and going away from that country) they seemed to shew signs of uneasiness, they walked hastily backwards and forwards in the cage, and flew against the top with so much violence, that they would fall back almost senseless: sometimes they would be agitated in this manner almost all night long, in general they began in the morning, about an hour before sun-rise, and this uneasiness continued nearly a month at a time.

It is probable that they generally fly in the night, because they are seldom seen to arrive in the day. In Silesia, which is in Germany, they come in May, and go away about the beginning of September.

As Belon was passing from Rhodes to Alexandria, in autumn, he saw a large flock of Quails going from the north towards the south; the spring before he saw a number passing from the south, northwards. As these birds fly very heavily, in order to visit such distant countries they take the advantage of the wind, and begin their flight when it blows in such a direction as to assist them.

Sometimes when the wind changes during their passage, they alight in great numbers upon any

ships they may meet, and oftentimes fall into the sea, where they are seen floating, and beating the waves, with one wing, as though they were endeavouring to rise again into the air.

We read in the scriptures that the wind brought a prodigious number of Quails into the camp of the Israelites, whilst they were wandering in the desert.

Towards the beginning of autumn, in the island of Caprea, in the Gulph of Naples, they are taken in such numbers, that the bishop of that island receives the greatest part of his revenue from them, and he is called from that circumstance the bishop of Quails.

In the neighbourhood of Naples they are so plentiful, that 100,000 are sometimes taken in one day; when they first arrive, they are so tired that they have often been taken with the hand.

Though in general Quails migrate, yet it is said that in some countries they remain all the year, but perhaps these may be such only as are too young to accompany the others; this at least is thought sometimes to be the case in England, and that they leave the mountains which are cold in the winter, to come down to the sea coast where it is warmer; there they live very much  
among

among the sea plants, feeding upon the insects, and what they find among the sea weeds.

As soon as they arrive in France, they begin to make their nests, by digging a hollow with their claws in the ground, which they line with grass and leaves, concealing it as much as possible from the sight of birds of prey.

They do not pair, and the number of males is said to be much greater than that of the females. The hen lays from fifteen to twenty eggs in France; in some countries it is said that they lay but six or seven.

The little Quails can run as soon as they are hatched; in eight or ten days they may be taken from their mother, and brought up tame. In four months they are strong enough to accompany the old Quails in their migrations.

They moult twice a year, at the end of winter and of summer; they are a month in getting their new feathers, which they immediately employ to migrate with.

The male bird is often enticed by a call, which counterfeits the cry of the female.

They feed on millet and hemp, and corn when green, on insects, and all sorts of grain. The ancients avoided eating Quails, imagining that they occasionally fed on hellebore, and that in  
that

that case their flesh would occasion convulsions, but now they are esteemed a delicacy. When they have plenty of food they become very fat.

They seldom perch on trees, but will lie for hours together among the grass on one side, with their legs stretched out.

It is very seldom that they fly; the male, when he hears the cry of the female, will run a long way among the grass, rather than use his wings. In the winter it is said that they sometimes burrow under the snow, and they have been found in a torpid state in ant hills.

It is thought that Quails live but four or five years. In some towns in Italy, as well as in China, some unthinking people amuse themselves by putting two Quails to fight: they are placed opposite to each other at different ends of a long table, and some grains of millet are thrown between them; they instantly attack one another, and fight until one gives way. Formerly some have amused themselves by a kind of a battle between a Quail and a Man: the Quail was placed in an enclosure, in the middle of which a circle was traced, the man was allowed to strike the head or the beak of the bird with one finger, or to pull out a feather; if the Quail in defending  
itself



itself did not step out of the circle, the victory was the Quail's.

In China they hold these birds, as well as several others of this genus, in their hands, to keep them warm in the winter.

Quails are never plentiful in England, but they are imported from France in large square boxes, containing about one hundred each: these boxes are divided into about five or six partitions, one above another; each of the partitions is about high enough for the Quails to stand upright, and is furnished with a little trough for food, and has wires in the forepart.

Another species is found in Java, it is called the Noisy Quail; it cries at intervals, but its noise resembles the cry of the Bittern more than that of the common Quail. The moment the sun rises it begins its cry, which is so loud as to awake every body in the house; for this reason the Noisy Quails are kept as alarms.

They are easily tamed, but so tender that they must be exposed to the sun in the day, and kept warm in the nights, and have sand strewed under them, or they are very apt to die. They will walk about the yard in the day time like other poultry

poultry when tame; in their wild state they keep together in coveys.

This species is the size of the Turtle, its bill is longer than the common Quail; in other respects they are much alike, both as to form and plumage.

The Andalusian Quail has only three toes, all placed forward: it is a bird of passage, and is easily run down and caught, for after it has been sprung two or three times it becomes fatigued, and is easily overtaken. There are some other species, but very little is known of their manners.

END OF PART V.

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